NORTHERN ISLANDER

$4.50

DECEMBER 2024

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

DR. IRENE BUTTER SHARES HER HOLOCAUST STORY WITH BEAVER ISLAND ON PAGE 29

HALLOWEEN SHENANIGANS

CATCH THEM IN ACTION ON PAGE 12

A BEAVER ISLAND JOURNEY- PART 2

READ CAOIMHIN MAC AOIDH'S STORY ON PAGE 16

NEW LEADERS FOR SCHOOL & PEAINE TOWNSHIP BOARDS

ON PAGE 14

LONG TERM RENTAL HOUSING UPDATE

READ THE FULL STORY ON PAGE 6

AGING COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS FAILING ISLAND

GET THE FULL STORY ON PAGE 26

Beaver Island District Library
Nibwaakaawin

VISIT OUR LIBRARY. CHECK OUT A BOOK OR JOIN THE FUN ACTIVITIES!

GET THE SCOOP ON PAGE 10

BEAVER ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Keeping Island History Alive
Established 1957

NORTHERN ISLANDER

is proudly owned and published by the
Beaver Island Historical Society

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Happy Holidays to all. I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving season celebrating with family and friends. I am so honored and humbled to be part of a community that gives so effortlessly and welcomes the unity of togetherness. There is no time more fitting than to say “Thank You” for all you do.

It is the paper deadline, and as I look out my window, we have our first snowfall on the Island. Winter has arrived! While the Island is stunning, there is nothing like a winter wonderland on Beaver Island.

We appreciate your suport in 2024 and look forward to the continious love and comitment. A newspaper subscription is always a fine Christmas gift for someone who loves the Emerald Isle. As we all look ahead to 2025, your Northern Islander anticipates making an exciting announcement early in the year. Stay tuned and stay connected.

**Pierre wants to know
if you have a story?
Share it with us!
To submit your piece for
consideration,
email our Editor at
editor@beaverislandhistory.org**

Print Shop Perspective

Since 1957, The Beaver Island Historical Society has been working to keep Beaver Island History Alive! We advance this goal through a mission of preserving and sharing the unique history of Beaver Island and the Archipelago.

Happy Holidays to each of you. The Historical Society is so grateful for your support. We understand our Islanders have many choices of events and organizations to contribute to and are blessed you are here with us reading the Northern Islander, visiting the museums, attending our events, and trusting us with your littles during Kids Camp.

We have already started collaborating with other organizations and planning our Island 2025 calendar and look forward to your continued support.

What's coming up for the Historical Society for 2025? Well first to close out the year we are hosting our second annual Holiday Social on December 14 at 6:30 p.m. We have already begun decorating the museum and it will be in full splendor for the event. Be sure to stop by the Print Shop Museum to check out the decorations and get your picture with the Grinch. We have him locked up in the Jail!

The 2025 highlights: In May we will have two field schools on the Island. Northern Michigan University will return with the Archaeological team and Eastern Michigan University will return with the Historic Preservation team. In June, July and August we are going to offer three versions of Music on the Porch! Museum Week, we will present one or two nights of honoring the Island Matriarchs in our Gutsy Women' exhibit and the 5 th Annual Kids Camp will be July 21- 25. We also think the lower level of the Beaver Head Light-house Museum will be open for our annual this Place Matters Picnic on August 25.

As we approach the end of 2024, we're reaching out to our incredible community of supporters to invite you to be an essential part of the Beaver Island Historical Society. Although you can donate to many worthwhile island organizations, we would be grateful if you would consider supporting our mission, since 1957, to collect, preserve and share the fascinating stories of Beaver Island and the Archipelago. Thank you for your confidence that we will continue building on our exhibits and programming. We hope you consider the Beaver Island Historical Society for your year-end giving.

Warm Regards,
Lori Taylor-Blitz

TAKE A PICTURE WITH
THE GRINCH & OUR EDITOR
MAY FEATURE IT IN NEXT MONTH'S
ISSUE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PEAINE TOWNSHIP

MARIA DAL PRA
SUPERVISOR

ST. JAMES TOWNSHIP

BOBBI WELKE
SUPERVISOR

DRIVEWAY PERMITS: INFORMATION YOU NEED TO KNOW!

By Maria Dal Pra (Peaine Township Supervisor) & Pat Weeks (Manager, Charlevoix County Road Commision)

Did you know?

A Michigan local or primary road maintained by a county road agency typically spans 66 feet in width. This entire area, which includes the roadbed, shoulders, ditches, and nearby land, is known as the right-of-way (ROW). The county road agency holds a permanent easement to use and manage the ROW, regardless of ownership.

Why Is a Driveway Permit Necessary?

The ROW serves two main purposes: it allows for water drainage away from the road surface and provides a safety zone for vehicles that may veer off the roadway. Driveways intersect with public roads, and without proper planning, they can disrupt natural water flow. Improperly installed driveways may lead to road flooding, washouts, and erosion, compromising the safety and longevity of our roadways.

The Role of Culverts

Culverts are structures that allow water to pass beneath roads, driveways, or passageways. When installing a driveway, especially over a ditch or low-lying area, a culvert may be necessary to maintain proper drainage. Without a culvert, water can accumulate, leading to erosion and potential damage to both the driveway and the adjacent road. Properly installed culverts help manage water flow, reducing the risk of road damage. A driveway permit allows the road commission to review the area where a driveway will be installed and decide if a culvert is needed to prevent road damage and washouts.

Understanding Driveway Permits

It is required to obtain a driveway permit from the Charlevoix County Road Commission (CCRC) before beginning any construction. This permit ensures that driveways are constructed in a manner that protects our roads from potential damage caused by improper drainage and erosion. Anyone wishing to perform work within the ROW—whether a commercial business, utility or subcontractor, or private citizen—must first obtain a permit from the county road agency. Permits help establish communication between the individual or business working in the ROW and the road agency, which is responsible for public safety and ensuring road engineering standards are maintained.

The Permitting Process

To obtain a driveway permit from the CCRC, follow these steps:

1. **Application**: Complete the "Driveway and Right-of-Way Usage Permit Form," available on the CCRC website, which can also be found on each Township website
2. **Submission:** Submit the completed application to the CCRC for review.
3. **Review:** The CCRC will assess the proposed driveway location and design to ensure it meets safety and drainage standards.
4. **Approval**: Once approved, you will receive the permit, allowing you to proceed with construction. This process is rather quick, usually within 5-7 business days.

Permit Fees and Compliance

The standard fee for a driveway permit is $25. However, if you begin construction without obtaining the permit, the fee doubles to $50. Moreover, non-compliance may result in the requirement to remove or modify the driveway to meet necessary standards, leading to additional costs and delays.

Responsibilities of Homeowners and Contractors

If you're building a new home or structure, it's crucial to ensure that your contractor has secured the necessary driveway permit. As the property owner, you are ultimately responsible for compliance with local regulations. Overlooking this step can result in unforeseen expenses and complications.

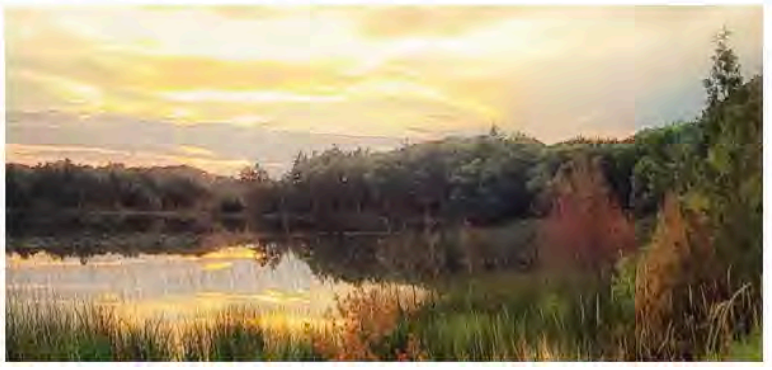
Conclusion

Securing a driveway permit from the Charlevoix County Road Commission is a simple yet vital step in protecting our roads and ensuring safe access to your property. By adhering to the permitting process and installing n

Boat Storage Discontinued at Barney's Lake Nature Preserve

By Little Traverse Conservancy Staff

The Little Traverse Conservancy is informing residents of the decision to discontinue boat storage at Barney's Lake Preserve, aligning with similar actions taken at other lakes across the island. The racks will be removed by the end of the year and current boat users have been notified. This decision reflects a broader commitment to preserving the natural environment and enhancing the visitor experience by reducing human impact on these sensitive ecosystems.



BEAVER ISLAND AIRPORT: ONGOING IMPROVEMENTS TO AN ESSENTIAL ISLAND TRANSPORTATION HUB

By David Paul (BIAC Chair), Maria Dal Pra (Peaine Township Supervisor) & Bobbi Welke (St. James Township Supervisor)

Introduction

The Beaver Island Airport is a vital public-use facility owned by Peaine and St. James Townships and managed by the Beaver Island Airport Commission (BIAC or commission). This airport serves residents, visitors, and businesses, offering an essential connection between Beaver Island and Charlevoix as well as other regional locations. Additionally, the airport facilitates crucial medical flights, helping to transport patients to the mainland during poor weather and nighttime conditions.

Did you know…?

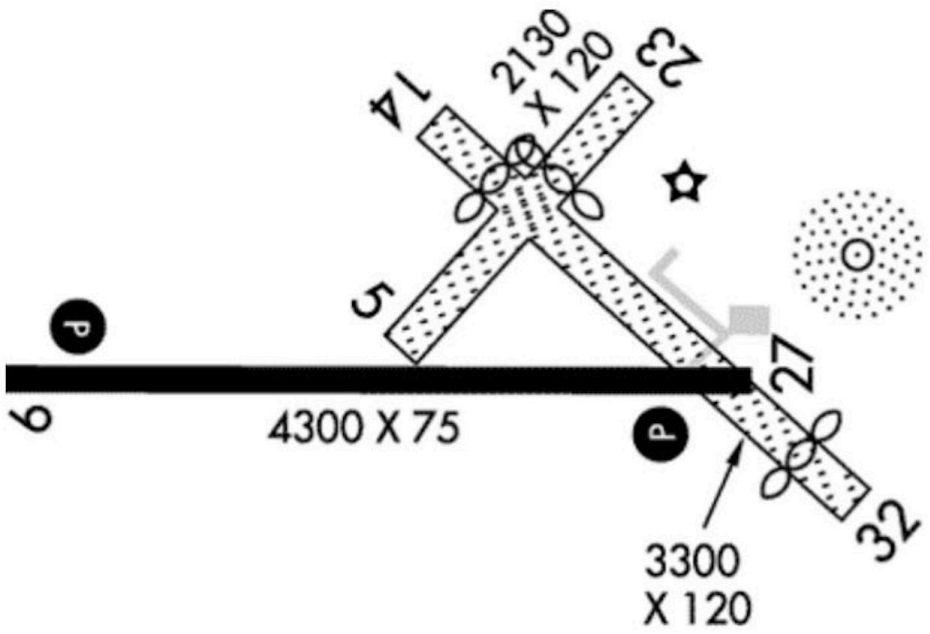
Beaver Island Airport is known to the aeronautical world and the FAA as KSJX. SJ signifies St.James and the K signifies that it is part of the contiguous United States. The K is often dropped for airline reservations making it a three-letter airport identifier. Alaska and Hawaii airports have a P before them as part of the Pacific region. The paved runway is referred to as either 9 or 27 (E or W), because they align very closely to a magnetic heading of either 90 (E) degrees or 270 (W) degrees. Runway 27 is used most often since the prevailing wind is often in a westerly direction. Planes normally take off and land into the wind to reduce the amount of runway needed.

What's next for KSJX?

In partnership with an engineering firm and the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), BIAC continually works to maintain and enhance the airport facilities. Ongoing improvements related to obstruction removal and a future construction project which includes modernizing the runway lighting and upgrading the pavement will ensure reliable service for years to come.

As part of these efforts, the commission has been addressing tree growth to eliminate obstructions around its three runways. Like many Michigan airports, certain trees near the airport have grown tall enough to potentially affect flight paths. BIAC has already resolved the tree growth near the primary runway, 9 or 27, which is the most frequently used. Efforts are ongoing to complete similar work around the two grass runways with the help of the nearby property owners.

Significant improvements are scheduled for 2025 and 2026. These updates include new runway lighting and fresh asphalt on the main runway, taxiway, and apron. Paving work is planned for spring and summer of 2026, with special attention to minimizing any disruption for airport users, including emergency services.



The project is estimated at $4,875,000, with the Federal Aviation Administration contributing $4,571,834, MDOT $151,583, and BIAC covering $151,583. BIAC is working to secure funding for its share of the project, ensuring the airport's continued service as an invaluable resource for the Beaver Island community.

THE BEAVER ISLAND HOUSING TASKFORCE NEEDS INFORMATION

By The BIA

The Island's housing taskforce is seeking your help to understand the housing needs on Beaver Island. We are requesting that anyone needing housing on the Island for themselves or their workforce report this interest by sending an email message describing their need to Housing-Taskforce@BIA.org. Any interest in second homes and other opportunistic housing will not be considered. We will use this information to guide the taskforce as we consider further development of critically needed housing on the Island.

In addition, we are asking those that need housing or are Island businesses and you need worker housing to complete the quick survey which is found at:

BIA
Beaver Island Association
Supporting Environmental and Economic Sustainability

The taskforce is working to develop a 15-acre parcel which is located between the health center and school, west of King's Hwy. This parcel is owned by the Adolph Family. The housing development in the Karnes Woods Subdivision is a separate, private project. The 15-acre parcel development is on a longer time line than the Karnes Woods project and will be constructed after the private project is occupied.

LONG TERM RENTAL WORKFORCE HOUSING IS COMING TO BEAVER ISLAND

By Bobbi Welke

The Beaver Island Workforce Housing Taskforce is pleased to share information regarding a new private housing development underway within the Karnes Woods Subdivision. On behalf of the Ebersoldt family, longtime Island visitors and homeowners, their 12-unit apartments will provide long-term rental housing. This project will serve the community of Beaver Island in filling a longstanding housing need. The development will be ready for occupancy in September 2025.

The Ebersoldt's Beaver Island Workforce Housing development is mainly intended to provide a long-term rental housing solution for incoming and existing workforce populations. The project will be available without restrictions to fill any long-term residential needs from seniors to island newcomers to island service providers needing housing for staff and crew.

The actual structures are currently being built off-site by Homeway Commercial, a custom modular construction company based on a design intended specifically for Beaver Island created by Ebersoldt + Associates Architects of St. Louis, Missouri. Ron Wojan Construction, Jim Wojan Excavating, Roberts John Service, Fogg Towing, and Kraai Drilling are all providing subcontracting services for the project.

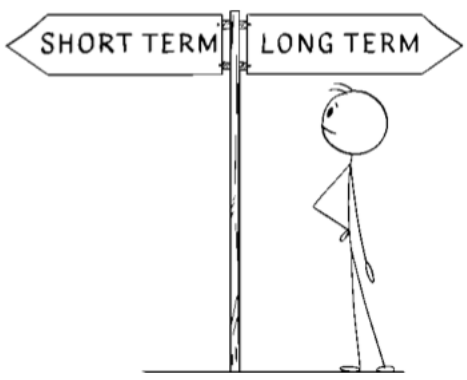
Each apartment in the current phase of development will be 560 square foot 1 bedroom / 1 bath units with quality finishes such as granite countertops, luxury vinyl flooring, full overlay cabinets and in-unit laundry at the interiors. The exteriors will be clad in fiber cement siding with standing seam metal roofs, shared raised decks between units, and exterior stairs to second floor units.

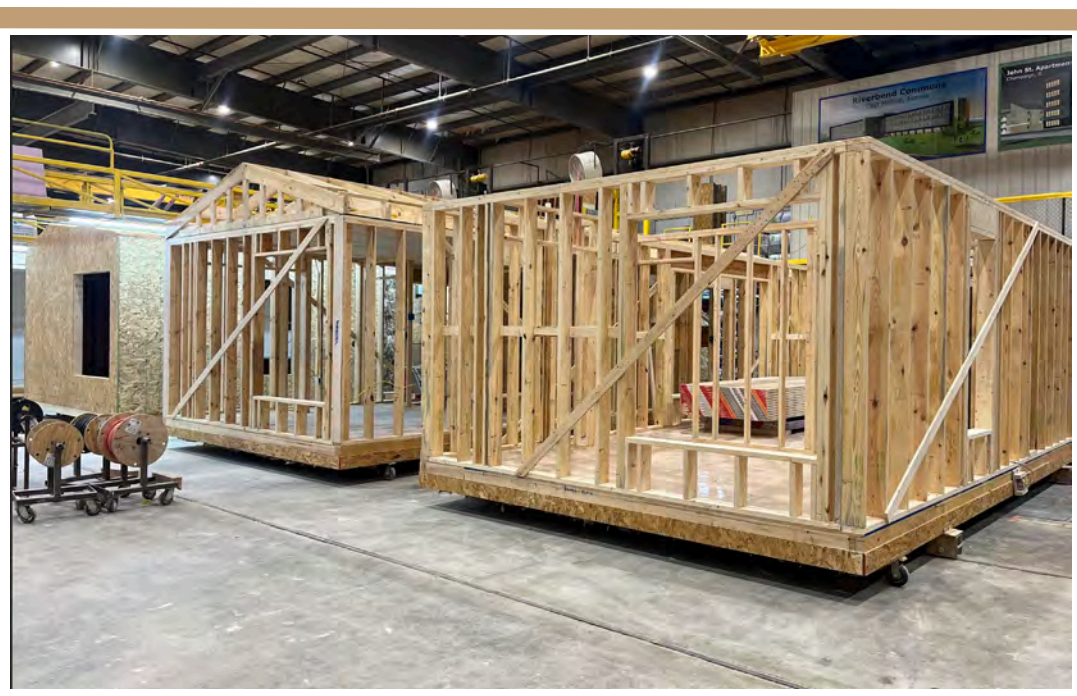
Architect and Developers of the project are Vince and Meg Ebersoldt of St. Louis and Beaver Island along with their son Campbell Ebersoldt. Vince and Meg have a long history of designing and developing multi-family housing projects both as Architect and Developer with their firm, Ebersoldt + Associates Architecture. Campbell Ebersoldt is an affordable housing developer with Lincoln Avenue Communities located in Santa Monica, California.

Speaking on the merits of the project, Vince Ebersoldt proclaims, "We are thrilled to be able to assist the Island in addressing a longstanding need. We are confident this project will immediately impact the Island economy and immediately assist our ability to draw residents and members of the workforce to commit long term to Beaver Island, whether they be new teachers, seniors, utility workers, construction laborers, etc. The bottom line for us is that we wanted to do a project that brings our expertise to the table to make the most positive impact possible in the shortest amount of time. The assistance and support we have received from the community and the state of Michigan has been immeasurably positive, and we can't wait to have this new development in place."

The project is made possible by a grant from the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) as part of their MI Neighborhood Program, Michigan's PILOT property tax payment program, and the cooperation and support of St. James Township.

Three of the 12 apartment units will be subject to resident income restrictions equal to 60% of Average Median Income and the remaining nine apartment units will be subject to resident income restrictions equal to 120% of Average Median income. The proposed lease rates fall well under the maximum amount of each income range.





COA UPDATE SUMMARY- VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

By Bobbi Welke & Lori Taylor-Blitz

As discussed in Amy Wieland's COA Island Residents letter (below), the fourI islanders listed in her communication met with county officials including the COA team and attended the County Commissioner's Personnel / Internal Government meeting. We believe we are moving forward better than before. Amy's report discusses the specific action she will request at the Commissioners Board meeting scheduled for December 11, 2024.

Here on the island, we would like to proceed by forming the Beaver Island Senior Advisory Committee. This Committee is responsible for communicating our seniors needs to the County COA Committee. This Island Committee is to be led by an Islander who is appointed by the County Commissioners to be the Island's representative on the County COA Committee.

- To be considered for a position on the five-member Beaver Island Senior Advisory Committee, please contact Catherine Meintsma.
- To be considered by the County as the Island representative on the County COA Committee, please submit your application as soon as possible to the County Clerk. This application is found at the County's Website **(www.charlevoixcounty.org), under Boards and Commissions.**

Our volunteer leadership team will remain working at a strategic level continuing our collaboration with County COA officials to address Island concerns as needed.

In close, we would like to remind all Islanders over 60 years-of-age, including seasonal residents, that your enrollment within the COA program needs to be renewed every October 1. This enrollment validates our population for COA programs, regardless of individual needs for these services.

CHARLEVOIX COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING

By Amy Weiland- Executive Director

Good Afternoon, Beaver Island Residents ~We had a very productive morning meeting with Beaver Island Residents Bobbi Welke, Lori Taylor-Blitz, Paul Cole and Kevin Boyle as well at the County Commissioners Subcommittee called Personnel and Internal Government.

I hope to assist you in better understanding our processes here and the amount of time it takes to get things done, the Government moves very slowly and the Charlevoix County Commission on Aging is a County Department.

County Commissioners meet 4 times a month depending on Holidays. The first Wednesday is the Building & Ground Committee meeting of 3 Commissioners to discuss the maintenance and upkeep of both the interior of a building, including its structural components, systems like HVAC, plumbing, and electrical wiring, as well as the exterior grounds like landscaping, parking lots, walkways, and any outdoor features, essentially encompassing the entire property and ensuring it is clean, functional, and aesthetically pleasing. The second Wednesday of the month is the day Commissioner Meeting with all the Commissioner's in attendance or at least a quorum to vote on things discussed at Building and Grounds or other things that have come up appropriate to the entire board. The third Wednesday of the month is the Personnel/ Internal Government meeting of 3 commissioners to discuss Human Resources, Contracts, Plans, Budgets, and any changes in departments. The fourth Wednesday of the month is the evening Commissioner's meeting with all the Commissioner's in attendance or at least a quorum to vote on things discussed at Personnel/Internal Government or other things that have come up appropriate to the entire board. Department Heads (what I am) are required to go through these meetings to get support from the County Commissioners.

I think it is important for you to know the process I need to go through to get things done and changes in Charlevoix County for our Aging Adults.

I presented to the entire Board of Commissioners on 10/23/2024 to advocate for our Beaver Island Seniors with what you all expressed at the 10/4/24 meeting on Beaver Island as wants and needs. At that time the County Commissioners chose to take no action on my recommendations as it was a lot of information. I followed up with our Personnel Internal Government Committee as this is the required next step and presented the following which I felt were the first priorities to get things on track on Beaver Islands Nutritional Program:

- Increase Nutritional Program Restaurants & School Reimbursement by 10% ($1.00 a meal) effective 12/1/24.
- Provide up to 7 Special Congregate Meals catered by Vicky Fingeroot: December, January, February, March, April, October, November.
- Rent the Gregg Fellowship Hall for up to 7 Special Congregate Meals catered by Vicky Fingeroot. Restaurant's will still be able to assist the COA with Special Congregate Meals should Vicky Fingeroot not be available and we plan to partner with the Beaver Island Community Center as a location in the instance.

I recommend these items go for a full vote to approve to the full Board on 12/11/24 as there is no evening Full Board Meeting due to Holiday on 11/27/24 and received full support. Once these items are voted on and approved by the full Board, they will go into effect per the dates on the contracts of 12/1/24.

Things that I feel have been Completed to date are:

- 10/1/24 Vouchers do not expire monthly any longer. They expire on September 30, 2024, this fiscal year. Vouchers will still be tracked and monitored weekly/monthly, but seniors will NOT have to exchange them. Any lost or stolen vouchers will not be replaced.
- Better opportunities for communication from the COA with support from Beaver Island residents Bobbi Welke, Lori Taylor-Blitz, Paul Cole and Kevin Boyle until a Beaver Island Senior Advisory Committee can be developed for streamlined communication with the COA Leadership.
- Response to the amount of time to process vouchers by COA Staff and Islanders – This process is done just like the other COA's who utilize vouchers. Specific names, NAPIS Forms and issue dates are tracked monthly. A COA staff member should be the one processing vouchers; not volunteers unless specifically approved by the COA Executive Director. The COA staff member should be pre-signing their name and the 9/30/2025 expiration date during their down time to facilitate the timeliness of these transactions.
- BI residents want the MI Mobile Secretary of State to visit – This is not a COA program so any costs to get them over to BI should be charged to the residents. They came to our Mainland Senior Centers Free of Charge. The COA is not able to facilitate the cost of this visit as other age groups besides our 60 and over population want to participate.
- Concerning BI School being able or unable to handle the vouchers for October and November. To date we have not heard anything negative from the school. Below are the numbers of vouchers processed through the school as of 11/8/24.
  - October Vouchers 10/7 – 10/11/24 = 2
  - October Vouchers 10/14 – 10/18/24 = 6
  - October Vouchers 10/21 – 10/25/24 = 5
  - October Vouchers 10/28 – 11/1/24 = 8
  - November Vouchers 11/4 – 11/8/24 = 18

I plan to keep you updated as things get approved or are changed as soon as I am able. Please be patient and know I do care and taking care of all of the aging adults in Charlevoix County is my priority.

BEAVER ISLAND HEALTH CENTER NEWS

Health Center Announces Elks & Swiat Foundation to Fund Free Dental Care for Island Children in 2025

The Board of Directors of the Beaver Island Rural Health Center are pleased to announce that the center's dental initiative has received funding for a fourth year. The initiative offers routine free dental exams, x-rays, cleanings, fluoride and sealants for all island school-age children.

The project's 2025 funding is being made possible thanks to a grant from local Elks Lodge #2886 and the Richard J. and Frances B. Swiat Foundation of Northport, MI. The grant monies ensure that all expenses associated with the dental checkups (dental exam, x-rays, cleaning and important preemptive treatments, including fluoride varnishes and sealants) are covered. About 60 school age children are eligible for the free dental checkup.

Ann Partridge added, "Half of the children in elementary school have cavities. Cavities in young kids can harm their health, development, and quality of life – both in the short-term and over time. Thanks to the Elks and Swiat Foundation, the health center is helping to ensure all little teeth here on the island get the care they need and deserve."

Lori Taylor-Blitz, Vice President of the Health Center Board of Directors and a member of local Elks Lodge #2886 noted the Elks are always looking for appropriate ways to give back to the community. She added, "I know our membership is delighted to demonstrate our value to the community by partnering with the Health Center to offer a 4th cycle of funding for a very valuable and consequential project."

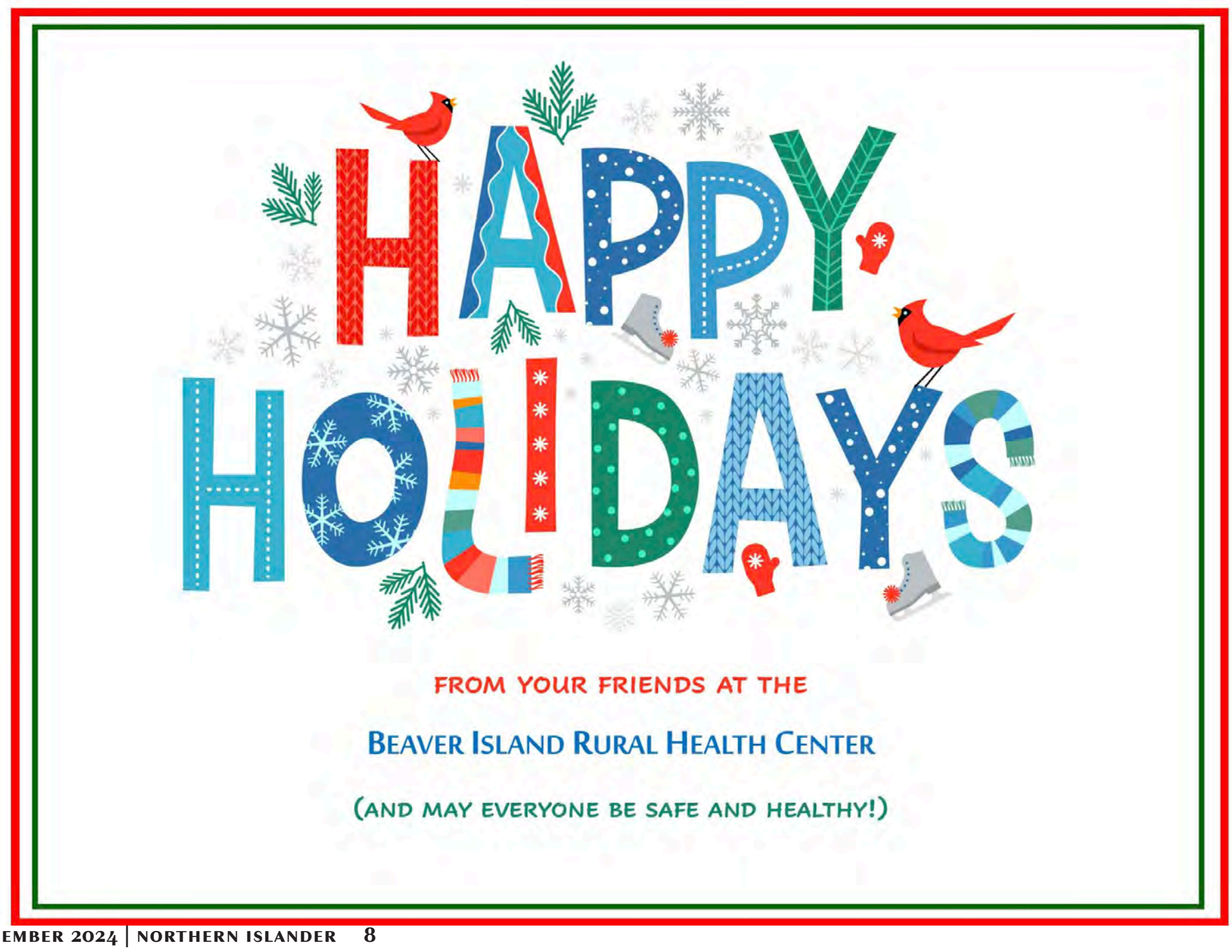
The free dental exam, x-rays and cleaning will be done on the island by the Dental Clinics North clinicians. DCN operates a clinic within the Island's Rural Health Center complex. Ann Partridge, the center's managing director, indicated the project is expected to commence in February of 2025 which is National Children's Dental Health month.

The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks has made more than 12 Billion in donations since they first started 155 years ago. The Elks annually donate millions in cash, gifts, and time to make communities better places to live.

The Richard J. and Frances B. Swiat Foundation is a private foundation located in Northport, MI. Swiat primarily funds general operations for organizations such as Special Olympics Michigan. The foundation was established in 1987.

Home Health Training to Commence and Pediatric Care in Pilot Project Planning

The home health care aide training program being underwritten by a c3f grant and health center donor funds is scheduled to begin in January 2025. Interviews were conducted in mid November to identify finalists who would be invited to participate in the state approved training program. The last update concerns a project that the health center board believes merits action. In 2025 the center shall submit applications to several philanthropic groups for funds to underwrite a pilot project involving scheduled visits by a pediatric nurse practitioner. The center's January update should have more information about this project as well as others expected to be in process during 2025.



NEWS FROM THE BEAVER ISLAND COMMUNITY CENTER

BIC Center

The end of the year is nearly upon us, but we've still got a December filled with wonderful holiday offerings waiting at your Community Center. Highlights are outlined below, but please check out the Community Calendar at biccenter.org for more details on everything taking place at the BIC Center; both our special events and regular programs.

On December 7th we've got a Christmas Tree lighting ceremony, followed by our second annual Home for the Holidays concert. That show offers holiday music provided by the island-roots Stay Happy Band, interwoven with true stories of island Christmases past - and perhaps a couple special surprises. Then on December 9th we feature the return of last year's one-man performance of Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol, delivered with astonishing range and emotion by renowned stage actor Allen Fitzpatrick, who brings to vivid life the beloved tale's entire cast of characters. It's a stirring and heart-felt production you won't want to miss.

Cookie decorating and photos with Santa happen on the afternoon of December 14 in the upstairs Hangout, so be sure to bring your little ones in for that. On the 18th is A Candlelit Christmas, an evening of traditional and modern carols mixed in with Christmas-themed readings upon a candle-filled stage. The concert is brought to you by the Beaver Island Performing Arts Alliance, producers of the perennial Baroque on Beaver classical music series, and performed by the Northern Michigan String Collective, brilliant instrumentalists who have performed with chamber music ensembles and symphony orchestras across the state and country.

Along with these noteworthy programs we've got Let's Get Quizzical! Trivia nights on December 3rd and 17th, great movies in the theater on the 21st and 28th, and more to be announced on our social media pages and website. Please join us to make this a memorable holiday season at the Community Center, and thanks for an amazing year serving you all!

BIC Center
BEAVER ISLAND COMMUNITY CENTER
SAT 11 AM TO 7 PM • FRI 8:30 AM TO 7 PM • HOURS: MON-THURS 9 AM TO 7 PM
Home for the Holidays
with the Stay Happy Band
Tree Lighting at 5:30 PM followed by concert at 6:30 PM
DECEMBER 7
5:30PM
DECEMBER 9
6PM
A Christmas Carol
One-Man Play
Adapted, staged, and performed by Allen Fitzpatrick
LET'S GET QUIZZICAL!
DECEMBER 10 | 6:00 PM
TRIVIA NIGHT
Here Comes Santa Claus
Photos & Cookies with Mr. & Mrs. Claus
Followed by a holiday movie at 4 PM
DECEMBER 14
2 TO 4PM
DECEMBER 18
6PM
Beaver Island Performing Arts Alliance
A Candlelit Christmas
with The Cummings Quartet
RESERVE YOUR SEAT AT STORE.BICCENTER.ORG
TUNE IN TO WVBI'S COMMUNITY CALENDAR WEEKDAYS AT 9, NOON, 3, AND 6 OR VISIT CALENDAR. WVBI.NET
WVBI 100.1 FM
The Voice of Beaver Island
Harry Potter AND THE SORCERER'S STONE
December 21
4 pm
Beaver Island District Library
PG
Discover WINTER on BEAVER ISLAND
DEC 28
6 PM
WICKED
PG

Beaver Island District Library

Nibwaakaawin

DECEMBER IS.....

Believe it or not, BIDL has many different language dictionaries and how to speak a foreign language books, and we can always order from ILL. Of course, online offers several ways to learn a foreign language. Why should you learn a foreign language? It exercises your brain cells, helps maintain and improve memory.

Civil Rights, Bill of Rights, Women's Rights, Children's Rights, LGBTQ+ Rights, Right to Privacy... we all hear these terms everyday!. But what can you do to observe Universal Human Rights Month?

1. Read the Bill of Rights: Research what these freedoms mean to you. This time of understanding also honors the work of those who brought them into existence.
2. Do some Volunteering: Organizations such as Amnesty International (a charity that works to support and spread awareness of human rights) are always looking for volunteers. Do you part to help protect others.
3. Give Back to your Community: Help those who are hurting in your own community. After all, to start changing the world, sometimes you just need to start locally.

Read for the Record was a great success!

JumpStart's Read for the Record Day, held on Oct. 24th, was an opportunity for the school kids in grades 1-4 to read the book, Piper Chen Sings by Phillipa Soo and receive their own copy. Read for the Record Day is held nationwide every year and features one book. The Library Pals participated by partnering with a child to read, or be read to, during the official day.

The Halloween Party at the BIDL was held on November 1 st and we had a great turnout, some in costume and some not. Led by the Good Witch Tara, games, food and fun filled the time. Sack races, spoon races, a pick-up soccer game, chess, crafts, and more! Halloween themed food filled the bellies and a treat bag

SEED LIBRARY SPEAKER SERIES- Winter Sowing
About a dozen people showed up to learn about Winter Sowing from Monica Longlet. Monica presented the process (how to), showed examples from her own garden and from a Facebook group called "Winter Sowers the original."

Winter Sowing is when seeds are planted into containers like milk jugs, and the jugs will act like mini-greenhouses. The advantage is that the seeds go through winter, and the plants are being grown outdoors so are already hardened off for spring/summer planting.

There was a lot of excitement as the gathering wrapped up, some looked through the seed library for possibilities. All thought keeping in touch in the spring

LIBRARY PALS MEET NOV. 12
Our Library Pals program is back! Children and adults paired up for a good book, sharing stories and smiles. If you are interested in volunteering, please call the library for more details **(231-448-2701)**

The Rouse Simmons aka The Christmas Tree Ship

A webinar was held with the National Museum of the Great Lakes on Nov. 13 at the library. The topic was The Rouse Simmons, aka the Christmas Tree ship, which has connections to Beaver Island. Mannes Bonner from Beaver Island was the ¾ owner of the ship at the time of its sinking. The Captain and Lieutenant owned the remaining ¼. There were many photos and videos of the ship underwater was. Mike Weede was in attendance and gave some insight from what he had read also. **Note: the schooner in the Library's mural, painted by Keith Grassmick, shows The Rouse Simmons in full sail.**

Join the Christmas Bird Count- go to christmasbirdcount.org

Find out how you can be part of this 124-year-old program that happens around the world! This was organized in 1900 by Frank Chapman and 26 other conservationists to promote conservation by counting rather than hunting birds. Choose ONE DAY between Dec. 15- Jan. 5 and count all the birds you can on that day only. That's right, just ONE DAY!

The Beaver Island District Library is excited to offer its patrons free "Wowbrary" email alerts that showcase the library's newest items each week. The alerts feature the latest bestsellers, movies, music CDs, audio books, children's titles, cookbooks, mysteries, travel guides, health books, science fiction and more purchased by the library.

"This is a great way to enjoy and use your public library more," says Jacqueline LaFreniere, Director of the Beaver Island District Library. "People are truly amazed when they see in one place just how many great new titles we purchase each week, which they can reserve and borrow at no cost. And we cover all age groups and many diverse interests."

Wowbrary alerts are extremely convenient and quickly show what's new, whether checked out or not, for all Beaver Island District Library patrons, all from the convenience of one's home, work, or school computer. The alerts help those interested in just specific topics. It only takes a mouse click to see the newest arrivals appropriate for your child or teen. There's a separate section on parenting.

Teachers can quickly spot new resources for their classes. In addition to viewing the new titles, one can read about upcoming happenings at the library and reviews of current books.

Wowbrary alerts are free and do not require a library card. Go to www.wowbrary.org to sign up or learn more. One can also access the Wowbrary sign up from https://beaverisland.michlibrary.org or stop in the library for assistance or just give us a call.

Babies and Toddlers Mix Up- 10 a.m. on Tuesdays

Elementary and Homeschool kids- Tuesdays 2:30 p.m.

Tweens and Teens-Once a month!
Dec. 21 at 2-4 p.m.: Tween/Teen Cafe will be held on Saturday,

OTHER FUN THINGS AT THE BIDL IN DECEMBER

Dec.26 is National Thank You Note Day- sending thank you notes is a polite thing to do so bring your list to the library and create/write out thank you notes for the gifts you received over Christmas!

Dec. 28 at 1 p.m. National Card Playing Day- bring a deck and hang out for some card playing fun at the library on Saturday at 1 p.m.

Dec. 30 at 2 p.m. Join us for Family Bingo
This is open for all ages. Bring your favorite Bingo dopper, or borrow one from us and be ready to have a great time. Lucky winners will be able to choose a prize from our prize box.

NEW PROGRAM:
Now is the time to join our Code Club!
LEARN HOW TO MAKE WEBSITES, VIDEO GAMES, APPS, ANIMATIONS, AND MORE!
fiero code

2024 HAROLD LOUNSBERRY MEMORIAL HUNTER'S DINNER

By Jacque LaFreniere

The Shamrock Restaurant hosted this year's event. Thank you to Eric Hodgson and his team for serving up a wonderful banquet including frog legs, duck stroganoff, alligator, venison, turkey and all the trimmings!

The Kids Raffle winners are listed below. Prizes were donated by many, including Dean McClure. Items like alarm clocks, game calls and more. Thanks also to Phil Wyckoff for the Browning Shotgun, Levi Connor for the Henry Lever Action 22 Rifle, Brent Pike for the Pyke Gear Tongass Jacket, and the Swearingen family for providing the $100 cash prize in Ick Swearingen's memory and honor.

Raffle Winners

- Camping Package (tent & sleeping bag) - Gabe Cassidy
- Binoculars - Jolene Warmerdam
- Fishing Rod & Reel - Gabe Cassidy
- Daisy Red Ryder BB Gun - Jason Shelby
- Pocket Knife - Garrett Warmerdam
- Clock & Ear Protection - Lyle Cooley

Circle M & Tunes Music Makers
invite you to join us for
NEW YEAR'S EVE
DINNER AND A MURDER
Live Music at 9:00 by the Doghouse Boodlers & Paul Lamb
DECEMBER 31 AT 6:00 PM
CIRCLE M RESTAURANT
LIMITED SEATING - TICKETS MUST BE PURCHASED IN ADVANCE AT:
HTTPS://NYEFORTUNES.EVENTBRITE.COM
$50 TICKETED EVENT INCLUDES:
3 COURSE DINNER AT 6:00 PM, PREPARED BY JOSH RUNBERG
YOUR CHANCE TO SOLVE "MURDER AT THE 4 CORNERS SPEAKEASY"
COMPLIMENTARY DRINK OF CHOICE
LIVE MUSIC WITH CHAMPAGNE TOAST AT MIDNIGHT
DOORS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AT 8:00 PM
CASH BAR - LIVE MUSIC - CHAMPAGNE TOAST AT MIDNIGHT
$10 ENTRY AT THE DOOR (FEE DOES NOT APPLY TO DINNER GUESTS)
Proceeds to benefit Tunes Music Makers

Island Airways
TICKET SALE
HUNTING SEASON * THANKSGIVING * CHRISTMAS
Limited time offer starting November 20

Adult Tickets
$5 off one-way or $50 off book of ten*
Regular price $72 / $720 – sale price $67 / $670

Senior Tickets
$5 off one-way or $50 off book of ten*
Regular price $67 / $670 – sale price $62 / $620

Child Tickets
$3 off one-way or $30 off book of ten*
Regular price $47 / $470 – sale price $44 / $440

Pet Tickets
$3 off one-way or $30 off book of ten*
Regular price $37 / $370 – sale price $34 / $340

McPhillips Flying Service, Inc. (DBA Island Airways & Welke Aviation)
231 547 2141 Charlevoix or 231 448 2071 Beaver Island
Welke Airport * Beaver Island MI 49782
www.IslandAirways.com *
*Buy a book of ten one way tickets and get 11th ticket free

HALLOWEEN SHENANIGANS

The Island community was out in full force to celebrate the Halloween season.

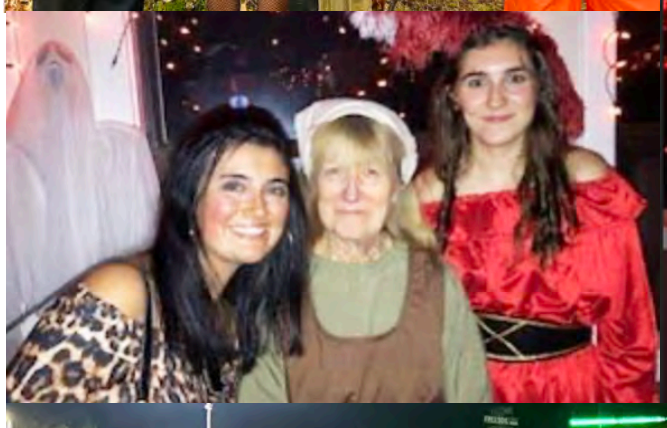


Photo Credits: Becca Foli, BICC, Erin Martin, Nicholas De Laat, Kim Warner, Courtney DeRuiter, Nean Smith
Lois Stipp, Whiskey Point, Beaver Island Community School

BIRHC NEW FURNITURE UPDATE

Cleaning and keeping health center waiting rooms safe for patients can be a challenge. Unlike center examination rooms, there's no turnover time between people where the waiting room space can be cleaned or checked. Thanks to a grant from the Charlevoix County Community Foundation, keeping the center waiting room furniture sanitized and safe has become much easier.

Medical waiting rooms are challenging because you can't control who is in there or what they touch. In facilities like the island's health center, you can have children, adults, or seniors all using the same waiting room. If you have children in the waiting room, every surface could be "high touch!" said Ann Partridge, the center's managing director, " It is the center policy to clean and sanitize high-touch surfaces." She added, "The arrival of flu season and the residual effects of COVID, have only made having clean and sanitized waiting areas essential and required."

The new waiting room furniture was made possible by a c3f grant, as well as donor contributions, and arrived just in time before the ferry stopped running. The new seating includes children and adults, as well as bariatric seating, for this type of furniture is especially important for medical facilities that need to put guest safety at the forefront of every choice. The new seating replaces chairs that are over 30 years old and that were previously used by an area hospital. The new chairs offer patients soft seating and a wait in pleasant and hygienic spaces. The new seating is being placed in the medical and dental waiting areas.

In addition, the center received a second c3f grant to acquire five new office desk chairs, The constant use of office chairs can result in an array of issues such as loose screws, worn-out casters, spent cushions, or broken armrests. These issues not only affect the performance of the chair but can also create an uncomfortable and unsafe seating experience for employees. The average lifespan of an office desk chair is 12 to 15 years. Most center desk chairs are over their lifespans.

Pam McDonough Grassmick is an islander that requires little introduction. As a dedicated member of this island community, she currently serves on the boards of the Charlevoix County Community Foundation, the Charlevoix County Planning Commission, and the Peaine Township Planning Commission. Her active participation in the Dark Skies initiative, invasive species control, and numerous other projects has significantly advanced our community. Over the years, she has been a member of various island committees and boards.

The following is best expressed in her own words:
"The island's community has for generations been built on volunteerism. We're dependent on those who call Beaver Island home- seasonally or year-round- to be active members of our community. There is something for everyone to get involved in: music, culture, environment, education, economic growth, or human services. We need it all to be a thriving community. "

"And while we may be geographically isolated from the mainland and all of its resources, it is the volunteers that make the island hum like a well-oiled machine. Young and old, all are welcome to support the island community through volunteerism. Volunteering is a great way to become invested in the island and get to know the place in more depth."

When you next see Pam, please, thank her for all that she does for our community.

BEAVER ISLAND RESULTS
BY GEORGE BRODER

FOUR CANDIDATES CAMPAIGNED FOR TWO OPEN TRUSTEE POSITIONS IN PEAINE TOWNSHIP LAST MONTH. CLAIMING VICTORY WERE HEATHER CARY AND ANDREW STEBBINS. TRAILING THEM LAURA GREEN AND BRYAN DOUGHMAN ROUNDED OUT THE FIELD.

CARY IS A SIXTH-GENERATION ISLANDER, BUSINESSWOMAN, AND PROPRIETOR OF CONCRETE BLONDE SALON. SHE HAD THE MOST VOTES FOR TRUSTEE. STEBBINS' PARENTS BUILT A COTTAGE ON FONT LAKE DECADES AGO, HE HAS LIVED HERE SINCE 2012. HE HAS SERVED THE COMMUNITY ON THE SCHOOL BOARD AND TRANSFER STATION WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.

NEW ON THE SCHOOL BOARD, MARLAINA COLE WAS THE TOP VOTE-GETTER. PARENT CARI LEDBETTER RAN A SUCCESSFUL WRITE-IN EFFORT. TWO WINNING INCUMBENTS WERE ANGEL LEFEVRE AND RICK SPECK.

IN SAINT JAMES TOWNSHIP, ALL FIVE INCUMBENTS RAN UNOPPOSED.

THE VACANT PEAINE TRUSTEE SLOTS HAVE BEEN HELD BY ERNIE MARTIN AND TRAVIS MARTIN. THANK YOU BOTH FOR YOUR YEARS OF SERVICE.

THANK YOU ALSO TO OUR TWO TERRIFIC TOWNSHIP CLERKS AND THEIR ELECTION DAY TEAMS, WHO DELIVERED A SECURE, SMOOTH OPERATION. OF NOTE - BOTH CLERKS - JULIE GILLESPIE IN SAINT JAMES AND CARLA MARTIN IN PEAINE EARNED THE MOST VOTES IN THEIR TOWNSHIPS.

SEE FINAL RESULTS BELOW FOR SELECTED LOCAL, STATE, AND FEDERAL OFFICES.

2024 School Board

2024	PEAINE	ST. JAMES	COMBINED
MARLAINA COLE	192	164	356
RICHARD L. SPECK	149	130	279
ANGEL LEFEVRE WRITE IN	34	36	70
CARI LEDBETTER WRITE IN	31	36	67

2024 State Representative

2024	PEAINE	ST. JAMES	COMBINED
JODI DECKER (D)	139	133	272
PARKER FAIRBAIRN (R)	123	98	221

2024 US SENATE

2024	PEAINE	ST. JAMES	COMBINED
ELISSA SLOTKIN (D)	135	143	278
MIKE ROGERS (R)	119	84	203

2024 PEAINE TOWNSHIP BOARD

POSITION	NAME	VOTES
SUPERVISOR	MARIA DAL PRA	160
CLERK	CARLA MARTIN	194
TREASURER	VICKI SMITH	171
TRUSTEE	HEATHER CARY	137
TRUSTEE	ANDREW STEBBINS	127
TRUSTEE	LAURA GREEN	80
TRUSTEE	BRYAN DOUGHMAN	74

2024 Presidential Election

2024	PEAINE	ST. JAMES	COMBINED
KAMALA HARRIS (D)	135	149	284
DONALD TRUMP (R)	127	88	215

2024 ST. JAMES TOWNSHIP BOARD

POSITION	NAME	VOTES
SUPERVISOR	ROBERTA WELKE	168
CLERK	JULIE GILLESPIE	181
TREASURER	DIANE MCDONOUGH	172
TRUSTEE	PAUL COLE	165
TRUSTEE	VICKY FINGEROOT	127

SOURCE: CHARLEVOIX COUNTY ELECTIONS DEPARTMENT

2024 US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2024	PEAINE	ST. JAMES	COMBINED
CALLIE BARR (D)	141	136	277
JACK BERGMAN (R)	115	94	209

STORIES FROM THE FRONT PORCH- MEET SUE TURNER SNOW

By Michelle LaFreniere

Sue Turner Snow is someone I have always admired. She is beautiful, kind, smart and funny. She is successful and settled. She lights a room when she walks in. She is happy-go-lucky and she is a damn fine cook and baker. She is real.

After about the tenth time she brought us cookies to the airport I was able to work up the courage to ask her if I could interview her. She didn't initially agree, stating there were far more interesting people to interview. I disagreed. I pick the people that I interview for a million different reasons. Sue finally relented. I was elated. We settled on a time and date, and I arrived at a warmly lit home and the smell of freshly baked cookies. Such an inviting atmosphere. She set me up with something to drink, an appetizer, and then insisted I put my feet up since I had worked all day. I contemplated asking her if I could just move in.

Sue started coming to the island in 1969 at the age of ten. Her parents brought her and her siblings here on a whim. Many of you will remember her dad, Bill Turner. He owned a John Deere dealership in Williamston, MI, and he often traded equipment for "many interesting things," as Sue put it. He and Fred Annand made some sort of deal, and Bill ended up with a lot on the bluff on East Side Drive. (Fred was Rose Perrone's dad and Mark's grandpa) At the time, Fred owned quite a bit of property on East Side Drive and was putting in the Pebble Beach subdivision. Bill and many of his friends and employees built a Sears kit house on the lot. They called it the house on the hill, and it still stands today. It is now owned by the Trevino family.

Sue loved the island from the get-go. Her parents were still working a lot and would bring the girls up north for the summer. One summer she got to stay with Tink and Annie Hayhoe at their house in town. Annie taught the girls how to cook and bake.

Over the years, they got to know the McDonough and Green kids, and they remain friends. We both reminisced about how wonderful and kind both Skip McDonough and Joy Green were to us. Sue spent four summers during her college years working at the Market. She loved those years, that was how she got to know people. Who else remembers the little charge booklets with your name written on the spine? My grandpa had those at his store, too.

The last two years she worked two jobs, McDonough's by day and the Shamrock at night. I think every kid in history has worked at least one summer of their lives there.

When Sue's husband passed away at only 59, she was a newly retired schoolteacher, and only 53 years old, she made the decision to move to the island. Her boys were grown, happily married, and on their own. Why not?

By that time the family had been in the Sand Bay house for many years. She bought the home from her dad. She has been here full-time for ten years now.

This last year Sue realized just how special this island is.

She went through a cancer diagnosis that ended up being quite the battle. She was doctoring for a sore on her nose that was painful. She ended up at the Loyola Head and Neck Cancer Center. They got right to work on her, thankfully. Her son Tim lives in Chicago, so she had a place to stay. During that time and after her return, the island people bolstered her spirits with cards, letters, and gifts. She is so grateful. They showed up when she returned in May in time for the full moon to put her deck furniture out and help her get ready for summer. Apparently, Full Moon Deck Parties are a big thing on Sand Bay.. how cool is that?

Almost 50 years ago a brochure promoting the island was put out and the picture on the cover is Sue! Her dear friend Rose Annand Perrone took it. She and Sue are still going strong too, and the other picture here is from this past summer, post-cancer, and was also taken by Rose.

Pancreatic cancer took Sue's beloved big brother Mike. His last visit to the island was last fall for Fred Annand's memorial service. He was able to see his old Island buddies and say goodbye. He told them he would be gone soon, and he was not wrong.

These days Sue splits her time between Chicago and the Island. Her favorite people are her grandchildren. Alex, Ben, Jane, Macy, and Will. She is so thankful they love the island as much as she does.

When I asked Sue about her favorite place on the island, she texted me back. these are her words, verbatim.

Thanks for writing about my memories. It has been fun to reflect on this week.

My favorite place on the island is my home and the beauty of Sand Bay. The smell of the pine trees and hearing the lapping of the waves always brings me joy.

I enjoy working outside and entertaining my family and friends here. Full moon deck parties are favorites with my Sand Bay neighbors. I spend about half my time in Chicago being a grandma and then return to the island for rest and recovery.

I did want to tell you how impressed I have been with the changes on this island since COVID-19. The community center, the COA, WVBI, the clean-up of the marina, Heidi's pocket gardens, and BIBCO, are a few of my highlights! I am blessed to see all these changes over the years.

Well, Sue, you are a highlight to everyone who knows you. You are loved. I am blessed to know you. I am glad you came back to the island.

A BEAVER ISLAND JOURNEY- PART 2

By Caoimhin Mac Aoidh

INTRODUCTION

By Kitty McNamara

The article (in three parts) that you are about to read will speak for itself about the strength of the connection between Beaver Island in Lake Michigan off the NW coast of Michigan, and Arranmore Island in the North Atlantic Ocean off the NW coast of Donegal, Ireland. The unique and lasting connection between the two remote islands began in the mid-1800s when scores of Irish emigrants found their way to Beaver Island and never left, leading to the current understanding between the communities as a recent Arranmore song describes it: Two Islands, One Soul.

The story has been told in many formats, poems, essays, articles, music, songs and books; the article you are about to enjoy is written by a renowned Donegal fiddler and captures his thoughts and experiences as he comes to understand and value the connection. Caoimhin came to Beaver Island for the 2024 Emerald Isle Irish Feile because of his, and Beaver Islander Glenn Hendrix's, publication of a book recounting the life and fiddle tunes of Beaver Island's Patrick Bonner who descended from Arranmore folk. As you read these articles, I think you will find yourself wanting to learn more about what makes this modern day cross-world connection so special and worthy of celebration.

I managed to make contact with Glenn via the internet and email. As we exchanged questions and answers, it became clear that the story of fiddle playing on Beaver Island, and Patrick Bonner in particular, required a deeper investigation with a possible new volume of Glenn's important collection. Glenn was able to contribute more scholarly material than appeared in his initial work. I was able to provide information on the important and surprising connections with the living tradition in Donegal. The more we worked on the material, the more stunning the story of Beaver Island traditional music, society and the importance of Patrick Bonner became.

From the earliest work in addressing the fiddle playing of Patrick Bonner it emerged that he was key member of his community as a provider of social entertainment, namely house dances where traditional dances, forged in the Rosses and associated islands of northwest County Donegal. Probably the most globally important collector of ethnic folk and traditional music genres of the last century, Alan Lomax, had visited Beaver Island on his first collecting trip. Lomax had been urged and accompanied by Ivan Walton of the University of Michigan to visit the island and collect songs and tunes from its inhabitants. Lomax was not disappointed with his visit. He recorded Patrick and noted he was the best traditional fiddler he had experienced to that date. Surprising, Lomax would visit Ireland in the 1960s and collect tunes from Rosses fiddlers and would likewise be stunned by their virtuosity. If Lomax's work with Patrick was flawed at all it was in his comical attempts at understanding Bonner's Donegal tinged accent. After recording a tune from Patrick, Lomax would ask him the name of the tune. Patrick would give his reply and Alan would note the response in his collection diary. One humorous example of this is when Patrick played a reel and told the collector the name for it. Lomax noted the tune title as "Black Tar on a Stick." What Patrick had actually said was the popular title "The Blackthorn Stick!"

Having been generously supplied by Glenn with copies of the recordings of Patrick Bonner from various collecting sources and listening to the tunes as well as their titles, familiar tunes leapt out of the speakers at every turn. "The Blackthorn Stick", which was a popular name put on a number of differing tunes turned out to be "The Glendoan (gleann domhain – a deep glen) Reel", otherwise, "The Sligo Maid." As "The Glendoan Reel" it had been recorded by the genius Donegal fiddler, Mickey Doherty. He recounted the story of how his grandfather, Simon Doherty, had learned the tune. Simon had encountered a host of faeries in the remote mountain glen of Glendoan in central Donegal who were playing the reel and dancing around a fire at night while Simon was returning home late from playing at a house dance. What was of further interest about Patrick's recording was that his version had quite unique melodic inflections not heard in other areas of Ireland but did appear in the Donegal setting.

As Glenn and I continued our joint detective work, building theories and re-evaluating them, it seemed that Patrick's fiddle playing had been influenced by Donegal-born fiddlers from the pre-Famine era. Was it possible that we were hearing melodic approaches to tunes from that period? While a definitive answer could never be confirmed, the possibilities existed and were worth considering. As we furthered our investigations tunes and exciting versions related to the Donegal tradition continued to emerge. Comparing Patrick's music with that from the older Donegal masters was of great interest, but what further emerged as entirely extraordinary was the parallel lives of three fiddlers of note who lived more than a thousand miles apart, Patrick Bonner of Beaver Island and that of Neily Boyle and Danny O'Donnell of the Rosses in County Donegal. Neily and Danny were both astoundingly gifted fiddlers who would have recording and broadcasting careers. As was the case with Patrick Bonner in the 1930s, Neily was actually subsequently recorded by Alan Lomax in the 1960s.

One startling commonality between these roughly contemporaneous community-based gifted musicians was how their social status as performers in their community changed over time. Each traditionally learned their tunes by ear from an older generation of seminal musicians. All three had influences from older female lilters; Katchleen Óg in the case of Patrick, Neily from his mother, and Sile Bonner in the case of Danny O'Donnell. Each began their adult fiddling as players for house dances where they were important members of their communities. Sadly each would learn the lesson that music is democratic and is sought at the will and choice of the people. As musical tastes changed through their aging, Patrick would see fiddling on the island reduced by the passing of the old greats and the introduction of what he perceived as the dreaded jukebox. Neily would bemoan the influx of Tinpan Alley material labeled as "jazz" in Ireland and which he referred to as "jungle music". Somewhat younger, Danny O'Donnell witnessed the decline in the popularity of the music in the 1940s and 1950s but having lived into his nineties, saw a significant resurgence in the appreciation of the music from the 1960s onwards, even going on to issue recordings in his later years. He would become almost unique in the tradition by virtue of having recorded on 78rpm and LP disc, cassette tape, CD, and download formats.

ISLAND TREASURES RESALE SHOP

The Beaver Island Fire Department Auxiliary operates the shop to support our Fire Department.

The more you shop, the safer we make our island!

26551 Donegal Bay Rd
Beaver Island, MI 49782
(231) 448-2534

Beaver Island Community School
NEWS

SOCCER

NORTHERN LIGHTS CONFERENCE
2024 SOCCER ALL-CONFERENCE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE NORTHERN LIGHTS LEAGUE FALL SEASON
HONORS THE 2024-25 SEASON
THE ALL-CONFERENCE TEAMS ARE SELECTED BY THE COACHES FROM EACH
OF THE NORTHERN LIGHTS LEAGUE SCHOOLS

LYSANDER MCGINNITY
KIRA TURNER
HALEY PEASE
LEXI PEASE

Beaver Island Community School
NEWS

VOLLEYBALL

NORTHERN LIGHTS CONFERENCE
VARSITY VOLLEYBALL ALL-CONFERENCE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE NORTHERN LIGHTS LEAGUE FALL SEASON
HONORS 2024-25 SEASON
THE ALL-CONFERENCE TEAMS ARE SELECTED BY THE COACHES FROM EACH
OF THE NORTHERN LIGHTS LEAGUE SCHOOLS

SOPHIE
MCDONOUGH
1ST TEAM

AVA PALMER
2ND TEAM

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BEAVER ISLAND IRISH HERITAGE ANNOUNCEMENT

By Kitty McNamara

Beaver Island, MI – November 14, 2024 – The Beaver Island Irish Heritage Group (BIIHG) is excited to announce a series of important updates, including leadership appointments, key planning sessions, and new initiatives that will help preserve and promote the rich Irish heritage of Beaver Island. These developments mark an exciting chapter as the organization prepares for its future growth as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation.

November 9th Board Planning Session:
Beaver Island Irish Heritage Group Board of Directors held a critical planning session to discuss strategic priorities for 2025 and beyond. The session focused on reviewing the group's mission, evaluating current programs, and identifying opportunities for expansion. This discussion will guide the BIIHG's efforts to better serve the community and celebrate Beaver Island's rich Irish heritage. The dedicated board of directors adopted organizational structures, defining the work of their Leadership Team and their three working committees. They also adopted a board recruitment policy defining their desire to seek specific skills and attributes to support the work of the board.

Leadership Appointments:
The Beaver Island Irish Heritage Group is pleased to announce the revised job descriptions and enhanced roles of key personnel to help lead the organization into the future:

Executive Director: Kathleen McNamara, who has years of experience in nonprofit management and community collaboration, will oversee the organization's overall operations, strategic direction, and engagement with the community under the direction of the 12-member board of directors.

Festival Coordinator: Kathleen McNamara will also manage the logistics and talent curation for the upcoming Feile and other heritage events that BIIHG may host or support throughout the year.

Operations Manager: Katie Johnson, a seasoned professional in organizational management, will streamline BIIHG operations to ensure smooth day-to-day functions, including fundraising, community partnerships, and volunteer coordination.

Bookkeeper: Katie Johnson, an experienced financial professional, will oversee the organization's financial health and ensure transparency in all accounting processes.

2025 Feile Talent Planning Session:
A pivotal part of BIIHG's planning efforts includes preparations for the 2025 Feile, the group's signature event. In the coming months, the group will convene a talent planning session to secure performances, musicians, dancers, speakers, and cultural programming for the festival. The group aims to bring together top-tier Irish talent to showcase traditional and contemporary Irish culture, further solidifying the Feile as a must-attend event for both locals and visitors.

AICF Conference Attendance:
Members of the Beaver Island Irish Heritage Group attended the Association of Irish and Celtic Festivals in October. This conference brought together representatives from over 50 festivals and Irish heritage centers from across North America. BIIHG's attendance helped strengthen its network, share best practices, and learn from other Irish heritage groups. The group's involvement in the AICF will foster new collaborations and opportunities to further promote Irish traditions on Beaver Island.

Irish Currach Club of Beaver Island:
As part of its ongoing efforts to honor and preserve Irish culture on Beaver Island, the Irish Currach Club of Beaver Island continues to grow in membership and participation. This hands-on approach to Irish heritage offers both locals and visitors a unique opportunity to connect with Ireland's maritime history. The Currach Club, now under the umbrella of BIIHG, has secured generous funding to build two new currachs.

Looking Ahead:
The Beaver Island Irish Heritage Group is energized by these exciting developments and looks forward to a year of continued growth, cultural celebration, and community collaboration. With its strong board and leadership team, upcoming planning sessions, and ongoing initiatives, BIIHG remains committed to fostering Irish pride and heritage on Beaver Island for generations to come.

SEASONS GREETINGS
FROM BIIHG
CHRISTMAS
POST
5
NOLLAIG SHONA DHUIT!
'Merry Christmas!'
One of the oldest Irish Christmas traditions is to place a lighted candle in the window of every house on Christmas Eve. It symbolizes the guiding Star of Bethlehem and is a sign of welcome for returning travelers and a reminder of friends far away. Will you join us in lighting a candle on December 24th...
Biihg

EMERALD ISLE IRISH FÉILE SEPTEMBER 5 & 6 2025

BROADBAND UPDATE

By Kevin Boyle & Dick Mulvihill

Michigan received $1.6 billion NTIA Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) funding to provide broadband to unserved locations.

It's not official, but Beaver Island is not eligible for BEAD funding, due to an FCC policy preventing duplication of federal funding. TDS received USDA and FCC grants for island telecom and Internet service.

Without federal funding, our only option is to build a township-owned fiber-to-the-home (FTTH) network.

Broadband will deliver economic development, better healthcare, education, and quality of life on Beaver Island.

There are enormous challenges for a small community with limited technical and financial resources to build a township-owned network.

Over the last five years, the Joint Telecommunications Advisory Committee (JTAC) and BIA have worked with state and national broadband thought leaders to develop strategies to build a township FFTH network.

Our primary focus is to minimize the taxpayer's contribution to building the network. We are exploring low-interest loans, general obligation and revenue bonds, grants, and individual, and philanthropic donations.

We are exploring a public-private partnership with a trusted ISP to design, build, and manage the township-owned network. This is a formidable task, as the demographics of a small community cannot generate the return on investment for an ISP to consider building a fiber network on the island.

We are in discussions with ACD, https://acd.net/ a Michigan-based communication service provider, that delivers fiber, broadband, and telephone services built on their own middle mile and last mile networks, ACD operates the Lyndon township network. Lyndon Township built the first township-owned FTTH network in Michigan.

ACD's CEO stated that they're in the business to make a profit but are willing to work with us even though they're not going to make their usual profit margins.

This is an investment in a community-owned asset.

Publicly owned, locally-controlled broadband networks consistently rank higher in terms of consumer satisfaction and performance in comparison to the monopoly Internet service providers, as PCMag and Consumer Reports have documented.

EPB, the publicly created enterprise in Chattanooga, TN financed a $220 million citywide FTTH network and has reaped a $2.7 billion return on investment for the city over its first ten years of operation. In addition to the economic jolt, the benefit of city-owned broadband infrastructure is that it allowed Chattanooga's leaders to provide a way for those who couldn't afford service to stay connected.

Continuation of the federally subsidized TDS monopoly on Beaver Island is untenable.

Under the FCC Enhanced ACAM (EACAM) Program TDS is required to deliver 100/20 Mbps service to the island. TDS' FCC EACAM subsidy runs through 2038.

Although TDS stated they fixed the problem, based upon their past performance, their August and September extended 911 and Internet outages will reoccur.

The BIA petitioned the FCC Wireline Competition, Public Safety, and Consumer Complaint bureaus to provide reliable failsafe 911/Internet service on the island.

BroadbandBI
Connecting Beaver Island to the World

The FCC's response was they function as a facilitator but would not use their regulatory powers to compel TDS to upgrade their network.

The Michigan 911 Committee notified us that they have no jurisdiction over TDS.

In addition, continued TDS service, bad as it is, on the island is in jeopardy.

A recent decision by the Fifth Circuit Court found the FCC Universal Service Fund (USF) unconstitutional.

The FCC USF supports E-rate funding for Beaver Island School and Library and subsidizes TDS service on the island.

With the current composition of the US Supreme Court, it will probably uphold the Fifth Circuit Court's ruling that USF funding is unconstitutional.

Based on their history, without federal funding, the probability of TDS continuing service to the island is very questionable.

We are developing a Broadband Community Outreach Program to educate the community on the risks of continued TDS service and the benefits of a township-owned network to ensure our economic viability and the health of our citizens.

We are creating a Broadband Oversight Committee to craft a business plan, Metro Act RFP, and monitor our IPS's contractual performance obligations.

We invite concerned citizens to join the Broadband Oversight Committee to build a township-owned network.

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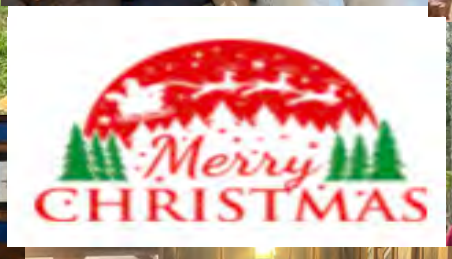

DECEMBER 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 **10:00 am** Beaver Island Christian Church Worship **12:15 pm** Sunday Mass at 12:15	**2** **10:00 am** Cardio Drumming	**3** **9:00 am** Peaine Township Planning Commission **9:30 am** Talking Threads **10:00 am** Babies & Toddlers Mixup **10:00 am** Pickleball at BIC Center **10:30 am** Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program **2:30 pm** Story Time at the Library **6:00 pm** Beaver Island AA Meeting **6:30 pm** Let's Get Quizzical- Trivia Night	**4** **1:00 pm** COA BINGO **5:00 pm** Time for Art **5:30 pm** Committee of the Whole Meeting	**5** **10:00 am** Cardio Drumming **10:00 am** Pickleball at BIC Center **10:00 am** Women's Bible Study **11:30 am** Hoop Shoot Practice **5:00 pm** Burger & a Beer **6:00 pm** Beaver Island AA Meeting **7:00 pm** Euchre Night at WPBC	**6** **8:30 am** Senior + Vets Coffee & Donuts **10:00 am** Pickleball at BIC Center **10:30 am** Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program	**7** **2:00 pm** Coding Club at BIDL **5:00 pm** Prime Rib Night **6:00 pm** Beaver Island AA Meeting
8 **10:00 am** Beaver Island Christian Church Worship **12:15 pm** Sunday Mass at 12:15 **2:00 pm** Christmas Cantata	**9** **10:00 am** Cardio Drumming **6:30 pm** School Board Meeting	**10** **9:30 am** Talking Threads **10:00 am** Babies & Toddlers Mixup **10:00 am** Pickleball at BIC Center **10:30 am** Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program **12:30 pm** BI Transportation Authority Board Meeting **2:30 pm** Story Time at the Library **3:00 pm** Elks Hoop Shoot **5:30 pm** Peaine Township Meeting **6:00 pm** Beaver Island AA Meeting	**11** **1:00 pm** COA BINGO **5:00 pm** Time for Art **5:30 pm** St. James Township Meeting	**12** **10:00 am** Cardio Drumming **10:00 am** Pickleball at BIC Center **10:00 am** Women's Bible Study **2:00 pm** BIESA Meeting- Special Meeting **5:00 pm** Burger & a Beer **5:30 pm** BI Irish Heritage Group Board Meeting **6:00 pm** Beaver Island AA Meeting **7:00 pm** Euchre Night at WPBC	**13** **8:30 am** Senior + Vets Coffee & Donuts **10:00 am** Pickleball at BIC Center **10:30 am** Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program	**14** **9:30 am** Beaver Island Irish Heritage Group Meeting- Planning Session **11:30 am** BI Boys & Girls Basketball @ Engadine **2:00 pm** Coding Club at BIDL **5:00 pm** Prime Rib Night **6:00 pm** Beaver Island AA Meeting **6:30 pm** BIHS Holiday Social
15 **10:00 am** Beaver Island Christian Church Worship **12:15 pm** Sunday Mass at 12:15	**16** **10:00 am** Cardio Drumming	**17** **9:30 am** Talking Threads **10:00 am** Babies & Toddlers Mixup **10:00 am** Pickleball at BIC Center **10:30 am** Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program **1:30 pm** BI Waste Management Committee **2:30 pm** Story Time at the Library **4:00 pm** BIA Board Meeting **6:00 pm** Beaver Island AA Meeting **6:30 pm** Let's Get Quizzical- Trivia Night	**18** **1:00 pm** COA BINGO **5:00 pm** Time for Art	**19** **10:00 am** Cardio Drumming **10:00 am** Pickleball at BIC Center **10:00 am** Women's Bible Study **4:30 pm** BIDL Board Meeting **4:30 pm** BI Telecommunications Advisory Committee Meeting **5:00 pm** Burger & a Beer **6:00 pm** Beaver Island AA Meeting **7:00 pm** Euchre Night at WPBC	**20** **8:30 am** Senior + Vets Coffee & Donuts **10:00 am** Pickleball at BIC Center **10:30 am** Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program	**21** **2:00 pm** Coding Club at BIDL **2:00 pm** Teen Cafe- Gingerbread House Building **4:00 pm Movie-** Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone **5:00 pm** Prime Rib Night **6:00 pm** Beaver Island AA Meeting
22 **10:00 am** Beaver Island Christian Church Worship **12:15 pm** Sunday Mass at 12:15	**23** **10:00 am** Cardio Drumming	**24** **9:30 am** Talking Threads **10:00 am** Babies & Toddlers Mixup **10:00 am** Pickleball at BIC Center **10:30 am** Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program **6:00 pm** Beaver Island AA Meeting	**25** 	**26** **10:00 am** Cardio Drumming **10:00 am** Pickleball at BIC Center **10:00 am** Women's Bible Study **5:00 pm** Burger & a Beer **6:00 pm** Beaver Island AA Meeting **7:00 pm** Euchre Night at WPBC	**27** **8:30 am** Senior + Vets Coffee & Donuts **10:00 am** Pickleball at BIC Center **10:30 am** Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program	**28** **1:00 pm** National Card Playing Day Celebration **2:00 pm** Coding Club at BIDL **5:00 pm** Prime Rib Night **6:00 pm** Beaver Island AA Meeting **6:00 pm Movie-** Wicked
29 **10:00 am** Beaver Island Christian Church Worship **12:15 pm** Sunday Mass at 12:15	**30** **10:00 am** Cardio Drumming **2:00 pm** Family Bingo Bonanza	**31** **9:30 am** Talking Threads **10:00 am** Babies & Toddlers Mixup **10:00 am** Pickleball at BIC Center **10:30 am** Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program				

Christmas Cantata
THE ANNUAL COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CANTATA WILL BE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8TH. WE WOULD LIKE TO INVITE ANYBODY WHO LIKES TO SING TO JOIN US. REHEARSALS WILL BE AT 1:00 ON SUNDAYS AND 5:00 ON THURSDAYS, STARTING NOVEMBER 3RD, AT THE BI-CHRISTIAN CHURCH. WE KNOW THAT EVERYONE CAN'T MAKE ALL REHEARSALS, BUT WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO JOIN US AS MUCH AS YOU CAN. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU ARE WELCOME TO CALL ME AT 448-2393.
HOPE TO SEE YOU ON NOV. 3RD!

funfacts

For the most up-to-date island events please visit the BIC Calendar. We send our paper to print and dates are subject to change after.

https://biccenter.org/calendar/

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BEAVER ISLAND WILDLIFE NEWS

By Don Tritsch

The Beaver Island Wildlife Club (BIWC) is excited to announce that we are working to upgrade the fishing pier at Lake Geneserath. The new pier will be fully accessible; a first for Beaver Island. It will be a floating design and measure 6'X40'; it will have curbing to meet accessibility guidelines. We applied for a grant with the Charlevoix County Community Foundation and received $6,000 toward our goal of funding the new pier. The BIWC and Peaine Township have pledged $5,800 each. KM Contractors reduced their installation bid, and the Boat Company will donate shipping. We still need $6,000 to fully fund the new pier. In 2021, the BIWC funded a modest fishing pier for Lake Geneserath. That pier is used by young and old to sit and ponder or wet a line. We have personally witnessed kids squealing with excitement over catching pan fish, some for the first time. It also provides an assist with launching a boat. The new pier will enhance the experience and be fully accessible to all. The design is modular and can be expanded as more funds become available.

If you wish to support this new pier, donations can be sent to:
BIWC
PO Box 103
Beaver Island, Mi. 49782

A little bit of background about the BIWC:

- We are a 501c3, so any donations are tax-deductible.
- In 2021 the BIWC funded a modest fishing pier for Lake Geneserath.
- The club was instrumental in getting a 3-point rule for deer hunting; bucks must have at least 3 points on one side to be legal. The result has been a higher-quality hunting experience here.
- Purchase corn to supplement the turkey flock during the winter
- Purchase and give away fruiting trees and shrubs that support all wildlife here on the island including migratory birds.
- The MDNR provides nearly 1 million walleye fry each year that the club plants in Lake Geneserath.
- The club funded 65 acres of aspen regeneration. As the regrowth develops, it provides a habitat for all wildlife during the different stages of regrowth.
- We worked with the MDNR and a host of other parties to develop a Management Use Plan for the 12,000 acres of state land here. The acreage was broken down as follows:
  - *Special Conservation Zone* – 4,310 acres encompasses rare high-quality natural communities that will be left as-is and monitored.
  - *Selective Management Zones* – 3,637 acres include late-successional forests that will be maintained and/or restored.
  - *Habitat Maintenance and Restoration Zone* – 4,401 acres primarily lowland areas with mixed aspens that will be managed for habitat.
- We organize an ice fishing contest each winter.
- Each year we organize a hunter's dinner during deer gun season. This provides an opportunity for fellow hunters, young and old to get together, share a meal, and swap a few tales about the big one.

LONG ROAD DISTILLERS VISIT BEAVER ISLAND

Long Road Distillers
5 days ago·

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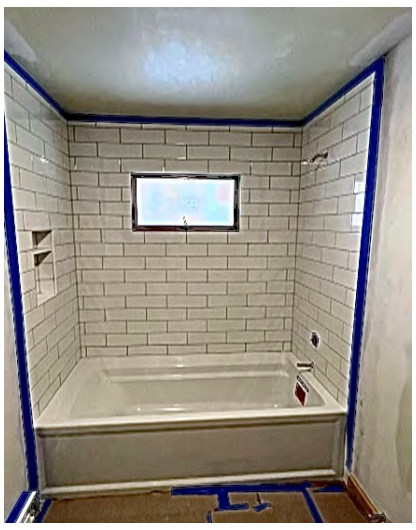

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OH, NO CHRISTMAS TREES!

By Peaine Township

During the 1960s Scots pine, also known as Scotch pine, (Pinus sylvestris), emerged as one of the most sought-after trees for Christmas in North America. The Christmas tree industry saw a new economic opportunity growing this popular tree. However, within a relatively short period, other options became more desirable as Christmas trees. This led to plantations of Scots pine growing to the point of no longer being marketable. Its use in North America is now discouraged, and it is considered invasive in many states. This tree is a weedy and problematic species that spreads and invades many natural areas. The Nature Conservancy of Canada considers it a tree of choice for elimination from protected lands.

Wherever Scots pine is established, it reduces the native plant species richness and diversity. This is especially concerning for our native Red and White pines. The Scotch pine grows much more aggressively during the first few years, crowding out the other species leaving only Scots pine. This aggressive early growth gives it a competitive advantage against native tree species.

The Scot's pine is inferior to our native pine for lumber not only because it is smaller but because it grows crooked, breaks easily, and creates multi-trunks. In North America, the lifespan of the Scots pines is shorter than native pines and is even further reduced by disease and insect infestations. When it dies, it is often too late in the stage of succession for our native pines to successfully become established.

It is a vector for more than 100 documented pest or disease issues, several of which are introduced. For example, Scots pine is a vector for pine wilt disease which is spread through the pine wood nematode pathogen. Several of the associated insect pests, such as the pine shoot beetle (Tomicus minor), are of special concern as the potential ecological and economic impact extends to our valuable native tree species.

Young Scots pine trees are highly susceptible to fire, and mature trees are still more susceptible to severe fires than our native pines. The National Fire Protection Association reports that the Scots Pine Tree takes less than nine seconds to become fully engulfed in flames.

In the 1970's Scots pine found its way to Beaver Island through mail-order Christmas trees to grow at home, only 10 for 99 cents! Preferring sandy soil, as found here on the island, they have done quite well. In September Scots pine was found growing at the transfer station. Over 400 trees have been removed so far. There is also a large population growing in the vicinity of Barneys Lake Rd. and Eagle Hill Rd. The good news is that Scots pine is relatively easy to control. Because this species cannot resprout, cutting the trees is sufficient to permanently remove it from a site.

OUTDATED COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS CAN'T MEET 21ST CENTURY DEMANDS

By Beat Reporter Bill Reed

Beaver Island's local telecommunications infrastructure consists of two essential elements. Both have been in place for nearly seventy-five years now.

The local, on-island TDS network was built on a foundation of individual copper wire pairs, packed together in cables and linking each home or business to a switch that, in turn, made the connections between them and onward to the mainland link. The so-called "last mile" from the switch to the home was an individual pair of copper wires leading to each. The switch and connections beyond were a shared resource. This same architecture was used in the first telephone communications systems almost 150 years ago.

The other key element, the connection to the mainland, was built using microwave radio communications. The local switching office connects the copper network to a TDS microwave tower on Sloptown Rd. Microwave technology uses a directional radio antenna for the wireless transmission of multiple independent signals over line-of sight distances. The technology has been in use for over 60 years. It was microwave radio technology that initially made it economically feasible to connect the island's local copper wire network to the world.

The technology and network architecture originally designed to carry voice conversations across the island and around the world is faltering now in the face of demands it was not designed to meet. In digital terms, a voice conversation requires only kilobit data rates (thousands of bits/second) to work smoothly. But a high-definition Netflix movie requires several thousand times that rate (measured in megabits) to deliver a seamless viewing experience.

As the demand on this architecture evolved from carrying conversations to transmitting data in its many forms, it was the microwave linkage to the mainland that initially became the problem. That is because it is shared. All the traffic generated on the island that needs to go off island --and vise versa – must be consolidated to travel over the shared microwave facilities to get back and forth across the lake. Though the carrying capacities of microwave circuits have increased over time, the rate of improvement has not kept pace with the growth in demand.

For this reason, it was the cellular service carriers who first built their own exclusive "backhaul" microwave links to the mainland to serve their customers on the island. This ensures they have sufficient individual capacity to handle expanding voice and data demand on their networks. AT&T would not share its mainland microwave capacity with the Northern Islander but it has confirmed that it maintains an exclusive link. Verizon currently operates its own 1 Gigabit microwave (1000 megabits) link to the mainland from the Kings Highway tower. It has plans to increase its mainland backhaul capacity to 5 Gigabits in 2025 in order to roll out an offer of fixed wireless internet service to its customers on the island.

It is not just the cellular companies that are building DIY mainland links. CMU maintains its own private microwave link to the mainland from the east side fire-station tower. It is currently sharing capacity on that link with the Beaver Island Broadband Consortium through its Pools of Service project. That project is intended to deliver improved internet service for the school, the library, the community center and the health center. The school and BIC are up and running. The consortium is also in the process of deploying its own additional microwave link from the Font Lake tower to the UP. This will further supplement the capacity available to its members as well as establish redundancy should one of the other interconnected microwave links go down.

Another DIY approach for an off-island link is satellite-based connection technology. Island Airways has deployed a Starlink satellite internet link for its critical data networking needs. The Health Center is also adopting Starlink for interim internet service pending its connection to the Consortium network. The satellite option is available to residential users as well. The satellite approach bypasses the terrestrial copper and shared microwave links on the island for an individual, direct off-island connection. It requires a foliage-free view corridor to the satellite track though and satellite capacities are limited. Until recently there was a waiting list for Starlink access on Beaver Island and a "congestion charge" is still applied to new Beaver Island installations.

Despite the proliferation of privately deployed workarounds to the original TDS microwave linkage, the available wireless technologies will still struggle to meet ever-growing demand for internet capacity. The solution is at hand though. As reported by the Northern Islander last month, the Peninsula Fiber Networks fiber optic cable is slated to come ashore on Beaver Island near the St James Township campground and cross to CMU before continuing its submarine route to the mainland. The initial capacity of the fiber cable coming ashore on Beaver Island will be 400 gigabits/sec. This is more than sufficient to meet all the island's immediate demands, including the existing cellular and the DIY users, for many years to come. But this is by no means the upper limit of fiber optic technology. Speeds in excess of 1 million gigabits/sec on a single fiber strand have been demonstrated in labs.

The PFN cable capacity will meet any conceivable island demand well into the future. But this leaves open the "last mile" problem -- how can individual users connect to the PFN cable?

The highest speed option currently available on Beaver Island is DSL service from TDS. This service employs the same individual copper wire pairs already connecting our homes and businesses to the local network. DSL can potentially boost the capacity of the existing connections to speeds that can support moderate internet usage. TDS's "Mach Internet" service for example advertises download speeds of 18-25 megabits/sec and upload speeds of 1.5-5 megabits/sec. This is sufficient to stream a high-definition movie and download e-mail photo attachments but multiple users doing so at the same time would likely experience diminished performance and noticeable delays at DSL speeds.

The "asymmetry" between DSL download and upload speeds is intentional. It enables TDS to stretch limited capacity by throttling back upload bandwidth to preserve capacity for download activities. (Starlink does the same thing.) Though this asymmetry may be an economically sound strategy, it is not individually helpful when you're trying to upload a video of the grandkids arriving on the ferry.

The technology inserted in the network to deliver the higher DSL speeds is shared. Thus far, TDS has deployed eight D-SLAM's on Beaver Island. These devices deliver the higher DSL data rates to individual user lines and consolidate the traffic for transmission across the island and the lake to the internet backbone. Each D-SLAM can support only a fixed number of lines. More significantly, the speed a D-SLAM can deliver to a user diminishes over distance. As a result, the performance a DSL customer actually experiences will depend on how far they are from the D-SLAM serving their area. The FCC's conclusion that DSL is the "lowest performing technology" for internet speeds consistent with advertised rates is a direct result of this distance problem. So also have been the delays in obtaining DSL service for new subscribers on the island.

Evident in the history of telecommunications on Beaver Island is the observation that network designers spend their time 'moving the bottleneck around'. As new technologies are developed and deployed and new forms and sources of demand emerge, an element of the network is changed in response and a different node or link emerges as the new bottleneck. And the cycle continues here. The promise of the PFN fiber optic cable landing on Beaver Island is to remove the perennial bottleneck of a shared island-to-mainland transmission. Now it is the turn of the local linkage to become the bottleneck. The vast difference between the potential of these two elements to deliver services begs for resolution. There is no DIY solution for this challenge. It will require some sort institutional solution – corporate or public – but, in any event, a solution that can be widely shared.

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C3F AWARDS GEOGRAPHIC ENRICHMENT GRANTS TOTALING $32,624 ON BEAVER ISLAND

By Sara Ward

The Charlevoix County Community Foundation (C3F) responded to grant requests from nonprofit partners in four geographic areas in Charlevoix County in October. Thanks to donors who look to the Community Foundation to make a difference close to home, grants have been awarded to nonprofits who will work to improve the quality of life on Beaver Island and in Boyne City, Charlevoix, and East Jordan. In all, $176,193 in grants were awarded during the Geographic Enrichment cycle.

On Beaver Island, six organizations were awarded a total of $32,624. A grant to the Beaver Island Wildlife Club supports the building of a larger, ADA-compliant pier that will extend further into Lake Genesereth, ensuring that individuals of all physical abilities have the opportunity to enjoy fishing at one of the Island's most beloved inland lakes.

Music will get a boost on the Island this year. The grant to the Beaver Island Performing Arts Alliance supports a holiday concert for the entire community this December, followed by an in-school performance and educational programming at the Beaver Island Community School. Grant funds to Tunes Music Makers will allow the organization to bring in an Indigenous fiddle instructor and to continue offering music lessons to the Island's children.

The Beaver Island Historical Society will renovate the "Miss Bay City", a trap net fishing boat, into an interactive museum exhibit. A Beaver Island Rural Health Center grant will replace obsolete equipment, such as office desk chairs, to make office operations more efficient and improve office morale.

CHARLEVOIX COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Finally, funds to the Little Traverse Conservancy will support the purchase and protection of 40 acres of wetland property on the Island, further protecting and preserving important natural resources for generations to come.

The Charlevoix County Community Foundation accepts gifts of all sizes and for many purposes. Those contributions are professionally managed to generate income that is used to make grants supporting worthwhile programs, projects, and initiatives right here at home. Currently, more than 328 separate funds make up the Community Foundation, each one created by an individual, family, business, or nonprofit agency. With assets of over $64 million, the Community Foundation has made grants totaling more than $39 million since 1992.

For more information about the Charlevoix County Community Foundation, or to donate to the Beaver Island Geographic Enrichment fund, contact the Foundation office at **(231) 536-2440** or visit the organization's website at **www.c3f.org.**

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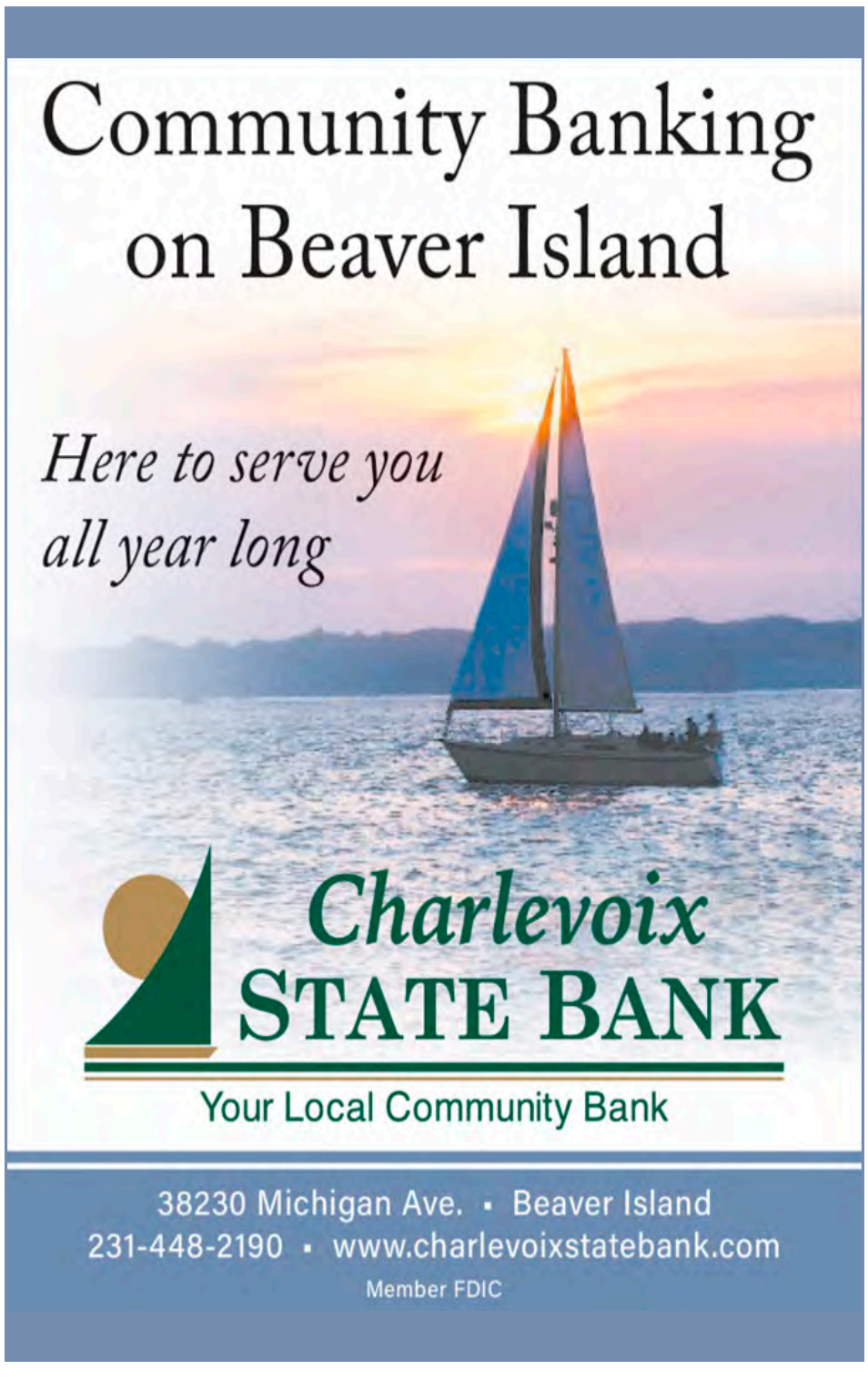


BEAVER ISLAND GRACED WITH DR. IRENE BUTTER VISIT

By Beth Croswhite

On October 30, 2024, Dr. Irene Butter graced Beaver Island with her story and profound experiences as a Holocaust survivor. Dr. Butter spoke with her slideshow to the Beaver Island Community School 7 th – 12 th grade students and staff. Later that same day, Dr. Butter presented to a large group (over 50 adults) at the Beaver Island Museum.

She shared details of her childhood escaping from Berlin to Amsterdam. Then being taken from Amsterdam to various camps, eventually held in Bergen-Belsen (a death camp). Dr. Butter discussed the horrific living conditions in the camps but also voiced a strong message of hope and survival.

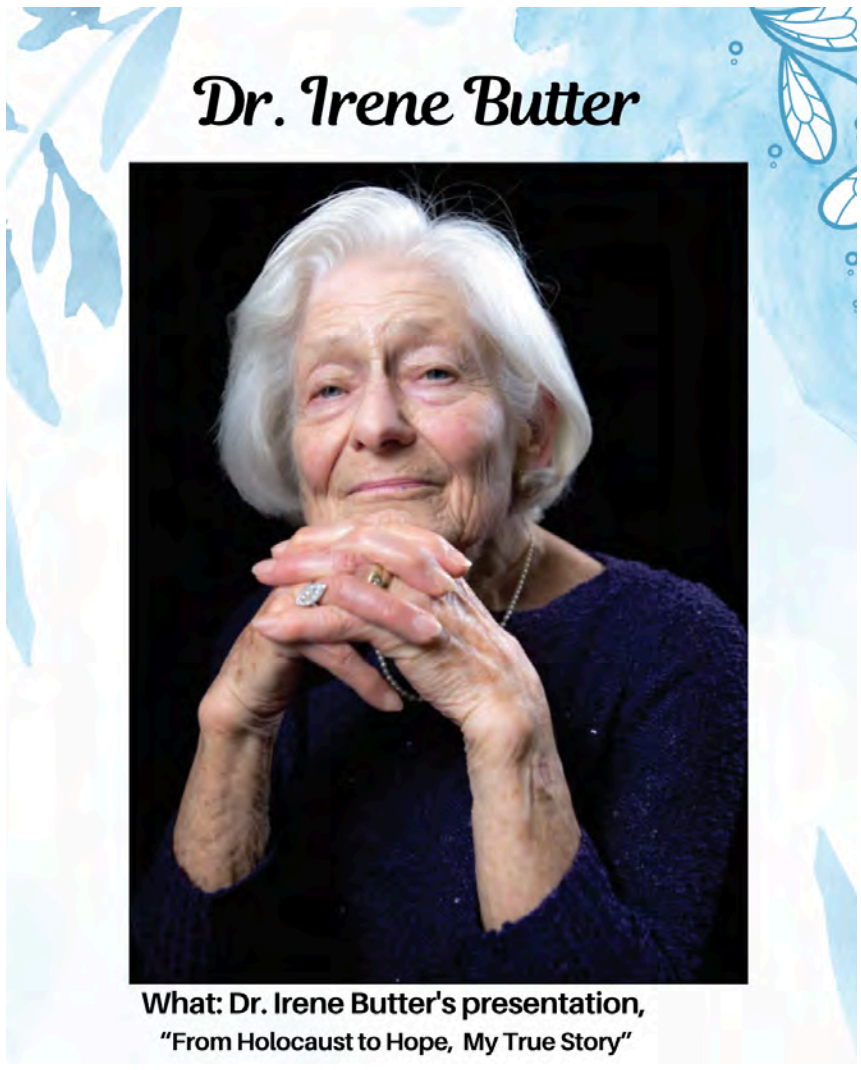
Dr. Irene Butter made a decision after decades of silence, to share her story with hundreds for groups of school students. She leaves each group with three important messages:

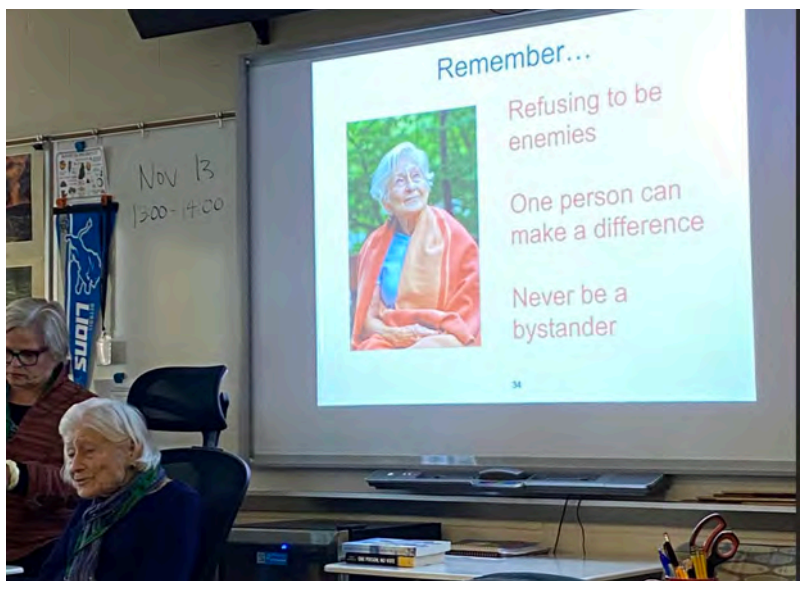
1. Refuse to be enemies
2. One person can make a difference
3. Never be a bystander

On October 31, Dr. Butter and her assistant, Hannah Hensel, discovered a taste of Beaver Island life, as the planes were cancelled all day due to weather. They made the best of the situation, enjoying dinner at the Shamrock and watching all the costumed children stopping by for candy! One student squealed with glee, “Irene”, and rushed in to say ‘hi’ with a group of goblins.

We are grateful Dr. Irene Butter chose to travel and share her story and insights with students and adults on the Island. Her gentle strength is an inspiration to all.

Dr. Butter’s presentation was recorded and will be available on the Museum’s website.





BAROQUE 2025: THE BEST IS YET TO COME

By Matt Thomas

The 2025 season of Baroque on Beaver will provide an exciting week of music including traditional classical, jazz, and contemporary musical favorites. Our intimate settings include indoor venues – the Community Center and CMU, and outdoor settings –Whiskey Point and the BI Art Gallery. The week kicks off with our annual presentation by Maestro Nordling, always an intriguing one that leads to lively discussions in the Q&A session that follows. Mark your calendars for Thursday, July 24th, at the Print Shop Museum.

Musical events start Saturday, July 26th, with the Opening Night Benefit bringing back Jaeden Izik-Dzurko, the award-winning pianist of the 2024 prestigious Leeds International Piano Competition, who charmed us all with his incredible performances this past summer. Jaeden will also join the Festival Chamber Orchestra on Thursday July 31st for a concerto performance at the Beaver Island Community Center. He is on his way to global stardom, and this is your opportunity to be able to say, "I heard him play on Beaver Island!"

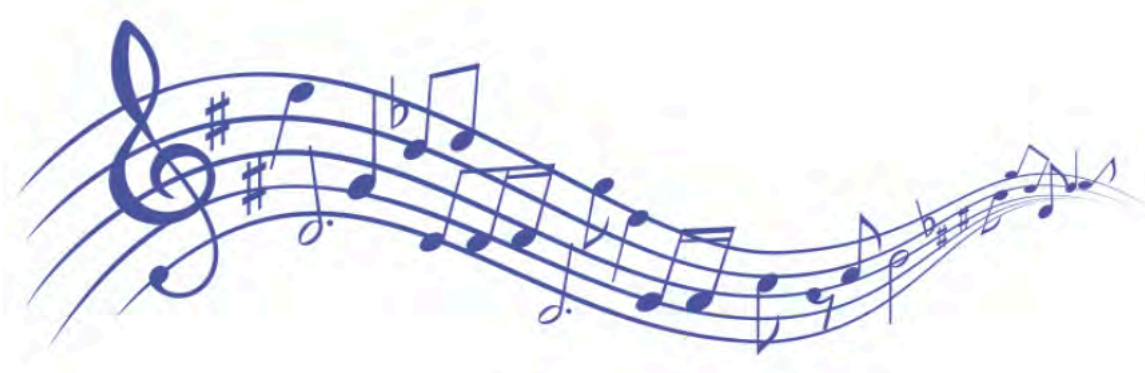
Special events kick off on Monday, July 28th, with Brass on the Grass in the afternoon at Whiskey Point. In the evening the New + Next Concert allows our musicians to showcase and discuss their cutting-edge work with contemporary classical music. Popular al fresco concerts also include the Emerald Winds Chamber Quintet at the BI Art Gallery on Tuesday, July 29th, performing during the annual "Meet the Artists" event inside the Gallery, and the St. James Jazz Ensemble performing an afternoon of swing at Whiskey Point Brewery on Wednesday, July 30th. The best of local and imported talent will play: Layla Hall (drums), Chris Screven (guitar), Michael Markley (bass), and Mark Ortwein (sax). This concert always sells out, so get your tickets early!

Beaver Island Performing Arts Alliance

Classical music, both vocal and instrumental, is featured on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings with the Chamber Music Waterside and the Founders Concert at the CMU Biological Station. Thursday evening features Jaeden and the Baroque on Beaver Festival Orchestra playing at the BIC Center.

The festival's grand finale is Saturday evening, August 2 at the BIC Center. This closing night concert features our Young Soloist Competition winner in performance with the Festival Orchestra. This competition is open to all instrumental soloists in grades 9-12 who reside and attend school (including home school) in Michigan and is a result of a generous ongoing financial commitment by donors Bev and Larry Seiford.

The BIPAA enthusiastically invites you to join us for what promises to be a week of varied and inspiring music. We hope to see you at many events. For more information, please visit our website, **www.baroqueonbeaver.org**

Tickets go on sale June 1, 2025
Evening performances at 7:30 | Afternoon performances at 3:00

Baroque
ON BEAVER
Beaver Island Performing Arts Alliance
Thank You!
For making our 23rd Season the best one yet!
Plan to join us for Season Twenty-Four,
July 24 - August 2, 2025!
www.baroqueonbeaver.org

LOOKING FOR THE BEST CHRISTMAS GIFTS?

Visit Jan's Book Nook for the perfect Christmas Gifts for the people on your list! There are gently used books for all ages, all interests and more! Jan's Book Nook is open 24/7 and features over 1000 books, CDs, DVDs and Audiobooks! The best part? The price is always right! Free will donation- you decide how much to spend and put it into the box by the door. Visit often as the inventory changes frequently. We now have motion sensor lighting so even on those dark days (or nights) you can browse through the shelves.

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The Fix Home

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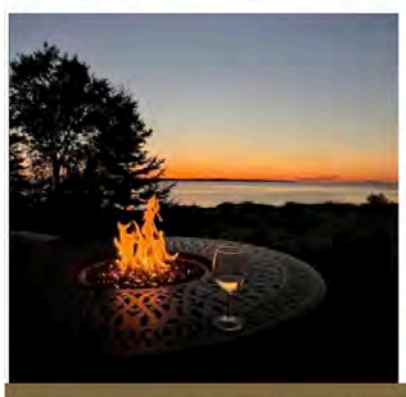
A beautiful home with a detached Carriage House with a large Apartment with 6.5 Acres and 245 ft of pure sand beach, Lake MI frontage. The main house has three levels with a main floor of 1750 sqft of living area - 8 rooms – Kitchen, Dining, Living, Master Bedroom, two full Baths, Laundry/Pantry, and a Study that could be an additional Bedroom. The second level Loft is a semi-private area with beds and 430 sqft. The lower level area has 890 sqft of finished area, + 760 sqft of workspace. The Main House has 1500 sqft of Trex decking. The upper part of the detached Guest House has a 685 sqft Apartment with a private Bedroom and Bathroom. The lower level of this building is a 600 sqft Garage. The owner says that there is 3,755 ft. of finished area (including the lower level). This home was built with the finest materials, 45-year asphalt shingles. Both buildings have Andersen 400 series tilt-wash dbl. hung, insulated windows with grilles and low-E sunglass on the west side, including 2"x 6" stud exterior walls, Wolf appliances including 4 gas+2 induction cooktops, Subzero kitchen appliances, large stainless steel sink, plus prep sink in the large island, Kohler fixtures, and Corian and Quartz countertops Propane F/A heat. Rustic ash hardwood floors. Baldwin hardware. The study is soundproofed with 7.1 surround sound, and there are speakers in the bedroom, bath, dining, and front deck. There is a large wood-burning fireplace, wired smoke alarms, and a whole-house surge protector. The Carriage House features a full Kitchen also, a full Bath, and a pedestal sink. There is also an outdoor enclosed shower. You have to see this property to understand and appreciate it. It will be shown only to prospects who show proof of funds or a mortgage pre-approval letter. To replace these two buildings, you would have to spend over two and a half million dollars today. The raw land is nothing short of spectacular; there is no other spot on the West side of Beaver Island like this that can be built on today. The raw land value is $395,000 today. So the total replacement cost is just about $2.9 million.

Priced to sell at $1,850,000.



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BEAVER ISLAND ELKS #2886
2025 COMMUNITY INVESTMENT GRANT ANNOUNCEMENTS!

GRATITUDE GRANT

The Elks National Foundation awarded the Beaver Island Elks a $2,000 Gratitude Grant.

The Gratitude Grant will support youth and our local EMS service by purchasing two new thermometers and three pediatric SPO2 adapters for BIEMS cardiac monitors.

BEACON GRANT

The Elks National Foundation awarded the Beaver Island Elks a $4,000 Beacon Grant to support Children's Dental Health. We are proud to once again partner with the Beaver Island Rural Health Center, Dental Clinics North, and a private benefactor to provide the fourth annual free dental clinic to ALL Island Children. The dates are still under discussion but will likely be in late February or early March. All children are eligible to get a free screening, Xray, cleaning and sealants.

SPOTLIGHT GRANT

The Elks National Foundation awarded the Beaver Island Elks a $2,000 Spotlight Grant. The funds will be used to provide each elementary student with a free coat and the secondary student's warm hats and gloves. We will also be distributing one round of free books from Power BookBags.

LIKE WHAT YOU SEE? ARE YOU INTERESTED IN LEARNING HOW YOU CAN BECOME AN ELK MEMBER AND HELP SUPPORT OUR MISSION OF TO PROMOTE AND PRACTICE THE FOUR CARDINAL VIRTUES OF CHARITY, JUSTICE, BROTHERLY LOVE, AND FIDELITY; TO PROMOTE THE WELFARE AND ENHANCE THE HAPPINESS OF ITS MEMBERS; TO QUICKEN THE SPIRIT OF AMERICAN PATRIOTISM AND CULTIVATE GOOD FELLOWSHIP."

WE ADVANCE OUR MISSION THOUGH PROMOTING PROGRAMS TO SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY. OVER THE LAST THREE YEARS, OVER $25,000 IN GRANT FUNDING HAS BEEN AWARDED TO THE BEAVER ISLAND ELKS. OUR FUNDING HAS BEEN USED TO SUPPORT VETERANS, YOUTH LITERACY, HOOP SHOOT, PEDIATRIC HEALTH CARE AND YOUTH DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAMS.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT JOINING TALK TO ANY ELK MEMBER OR FEEL FREE TO GIVE ME A CALL: LORI TAYLOR-BLITZ, EXALTED RULER (906) 361-2031.

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TOY DRIVE

It's time to start thinking about Christmas and making a child's holiday a special one!

Connie Boyle will once again be organizing the Toy Drive (This is the 33rd year). The toys go to children who live in Charlevoix County. Any children who qualify for the program through Charlevoix County Dept of Health & Human Services and live on *Beaver Island* will also benefit from the program!

Toys need to be new. Please do not gift-wrap them. Human Services will do that after determining for which child the toy is best suited.

You can drop the toy off to Connie at home, leave it in her car (or Neal's) or the collection box at Island Airways Airport Terminal (Island and Charlevoix).

All toys should be donated by...
DECEMBER 7th

(If you are unable to turn them in by the 7th, a second shipment will be made, so still drop off the toys!
Family Services just needs the bulk of the toys early enough to make sure all children are "covered" — in case they need to go shopping themselves.)

QUESTIONS? CALL CONNIE BOYLE AT 231-448-2491

Rose McClory's Pumpkin Muffins

By Rach Becker

EACH MONTH, WE WILL BE FEATURING RECIPES THAT WILL BE SURE TO HAVE YOU COMING BACK FOR SECOND HELPINGS. THE RECIPES THAT WE GREW UP WITH AND STILL MAKE TODAY

Rose McClory and Elizabeth "Ebbie" Maloney were best friends from the time they were seven years old. They grew up in Oak Park, Illinois. Rose's first trip to Beaver Island was in the late 1920's as a teenager. Ebbie spent her summers there as a child, and, interestingly, she went to kindergarten on the island during the last pandemic. They stayed at Joe Burke's house which is now the Mormon Print Shop Museum.

Rose brought her husband John, and five of the six kids, Bill, Jack, Jimmy, Janet, and Bobby (Mary Beth was not born yet) in 1950. John was a bit reluctant as the ferry entered the harbor where Rose was taking him. Then, he met Archie LaFreniere, and the rest is history. They were best friends until John died in 1978.

Four of Rose and John's kids have had houses on the Island, where they would spend summers. Presently, the two surviving sisters, Janet and Mary Beth, still come for the summer every year.

Rose was at Marshall Field's in downtown Chicago at the Walnut Room having lunch, and they were serving the pumpkin muffins. She asked the waiter if they ever gave out the recipe. He politely told her it was in the Marshall Field Cookbook for sale in the book department. Rose, being the Depression Baby that she was, went down to the book department and proceeded to pull out pen and paper and copied down the recipe—she had no intention of buying the whole cookbook for one recipe!

Recipe

The recipe is as follows:

Rose Hannon's Pumpkin Muffins
1/2 cup pumpkin
1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
1 1/2 cup flour
1/2 teaspoon nutmeg
1/2 cup sugar
1/2 cup milk
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/4 cup vegetable oil
2 teaspoons baking powder

- Mix all together, fill cups in muffin tin 1/3-1/2 full, sprinkle sugar on top.
- Bake at @400 degrees for 20 minutes.
- 1 regular size can of pumpkin (15oz) is about a triple batch.
- You can use mini-muffin tin as well.

Blasta! (Irish for delicious)

Special thanks to Mary Beth (Hannon) Lyons for providing the information for this article.

km

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With over 30 years of experience, KM Contractors specializes in custom homes, commercial construction, dock installation & repairs, and steel & rock seawalls. Based on Beaver Island and serving all of Northern Michigan.

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BEAVER ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Keeping Island History Alive

The Beaver Island Historical Society Holiday Social

The Print Shop Museum is hosting a Holiday Social on December 14 at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are $20 and can be purchased in advance or at the door.

We will be featuring a variety of activities:

- Special Holiday displays featuring family holiday collections and photos.
- Need a last-minute holiday gift? Christmas baskets will be raffled/auctioned.
- Festive music by Cynthia Pryor and other ISLAND FAVORITES
- We will have appetizers (catering by Vicky Fingeroot) and a cash bar with adult beverages.
- 15 custom holiday trees & thousands of twinkle lights that will certainly make you smile

FOR SALE TO ALL
raffle tickets for the

Beaver Island Elks
Holiday Stocking Raffle

$5 per ticket

Drawing is at 6:30 Friday
Dec 13, 2024
at the Beaver Island
Elks Social Room

(have your Elks membership
card to be present at the drawing)
You do not need to be present to win!

Our ELKS Holiday Stocking is your wintertime basket of JOY

BEAVER ISLAND
COOKIE CARNIVAL
• Pre-order forms will be available
• Shopping in person on Saturday, Dec 14 at the Gregg Fellowship Center
• Stay tuned for more details

JOHN HAMLIN MCNEIL AGE 77, OF ROGERS CITY, FORMERLY OF BEAVER ISLAND, PASSED AWAY AT MEDILODGE IN ROGERS CITY ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2024. HE WAS BORN IN CASPER, WYOMING TO DUDLEY AND CHARLOTTE (MILLER) MCNEIL.

GIVE THE GIFT OF THE NORTHERN ISLANDER

The Holidays are right around the corner and we have the perfect gift for your Friends and Family who love Beaver Island. Why not give them a one-year subscription to the Northern Islander? You could pay online, call our office or snail mail us a check. The rates are $57.00 for first-class postage or $42.00 for regular mail.

Payments received by the 15th of the month will ensure your gift will be processed by December 1st or January 1st. Also, the Beaver Beacon Magazine will be available in December and you may order the 2024 copy at that time.

BEAVER ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Keeping Island History Alive

We welcome you to join us in helping to preserve the integrity of our mission to share the unique history of Beaver Island and the Archipelago.

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LETTERS TO SANTA

BEAVER ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

THE BEAVER ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS

This year the Historical Society was selected by Santa to have a special mailbox for our Beaver Island kids to send letters to the North Pole.

As part of our "Holiday Social" activities, we will be delivering special cards to the school so the students can fill out their wishlist. Also, we will have copies available at the Museum during normal business hours.

The North Pole Mailbox will be located at the Print Shop Museum's Forest Street entrance.

CHARLEVOIX COUNTY
MICHIGAN

CHARLEVOIX COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SYNOPSIS SEPTEMBER 25, 2024

The Charlevoix County Board of Commissioners met in the Charlevoix County Commissioners room on September 25, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. Five Commissioners were present. Excused: Commissioner Christensen.

Motion approved the agenda as amended.

Motion approved the consent agenda as presented.

Motion approved Resolution #24-109, Grandvue Operating Transfer.

Motion approved appointment of John Bush to the Veterans Affairs Committee.

Motion approved Resolution #24-110, Whiting Park Electrical Upgrade Change Order No. 1.

Motion approved Resolution #24-111, Establishing the Charlevoix County Materials Management Designated Planning Agency.

Motion approved Resolution #24-113, Establishing the Charlevoix County Materials Management Planning Committee.

Motion approved Resolution #24-113, Civil Counsel Agreement.

Motion approved Resolution #24-114, Court Compliance Officer.

Motion approved Resolution #24-115, Agreement for Extension Services.

The meeting was adjourned to the call of the Chair at 6:29 p.m.
Complete copies of Board minutes can be found on the County website, www.charlevoixcounty.org.

Julia A. Drost, County Clerk

CHARLEVOIX COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SYNOPSIS NOVEMBER 13, 2024

The Charlevoix County Board of Commissioners met in the Charlevoix County Commissioners room on November 13, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. Five Commissioners were present. Excused – Scott Hankins.

Motion approved the agenda as presented.

Motion approved the consent agenda as presented.

Motion approved Resolution #24-124, Approve County Expenditures.

Motion approved Resolution #24-125, Charlevoix County Court House Hallway Carpet Purchase.

Motion approved Resolution #24-126, Green Building Name Change to Whiting Hall.

The meeting was adjourned to the call of the Chair at 9:48 a.m.
Complete copies of Board minutes can be found on the County website www.charlevoixcounty.org.

Julia A. Drost, County Clerk

Calling All Beavers: Please Join Our Northern Islander Family

The Beaver Island Historical Society is delighted to have acquired the Northern Islander newspaper. Our aim is to preserve and honor our history, deliver Island news, educate our readers, and provide endless smiles and memories.

We are committed to creating a new publication with an authentic vision and enthusiastic leadership team dedicated to producing relevant storytelling experiences for the community, by the community.

As a nonprofit organization, we can only succeed and thrive with your support. Please join this adventure and help the BIHS by telling your family and friends to subscribe **NOW** and make the paper an important part of your life!

To subscribe, mail in the form provided below, or visit beaverislandhistory.org/northern-islander

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